

# SOLDIER

MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

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ARMY

# Variety of today's British Army

THE mix of hard work and adventure that a military career brings has never been more apparent than in this month's issue.

As world events lead the public to speculate on where UK Service personnel may be sent next (page 7), a formidable training schedule means that soldiers themselves rarely have time to ponder such matters.

As the outgoing Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Peter Wall told us this month, "the challenge is to be fit and ready when the call comes" (page 11).

A visit to the British Army Training Unit Suffield by the *Soldier* team confirmed this. There, troops are taking their responsibilities as seriously as ever.

But Exercise Prairie Storm's notorious drills are only part of this story. Permanent staff work around the clock to keep the training schedule in Canada running smoothly (pages 30-31) and special effects artists ensure the mock battlefield is as realistic as possible (page 32).

Also this month, we quiz the Service's stars of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow (pages 78-79) and the Army Air Corps explains its hunt for more pilots (pages 35-38).

And finally, for a lighter look at military life, make sure you check out the training recollections of Royal Signals personnel on page 90.

What will be your standout memory as the Force prepares for future missions? We'd love to hear from you in *Talkback* (pages 53-55). Enjoy the issue. ■



Sarah Goldthorpe • Editor

- PAGES 14  
& 78-79



COMMONWEALTH STARS

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Picture: Steve Dolk

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**"We have to be at the top of our game when we fly"**

Potential pilots take to the sky p35

**"You get tired of people getting it wrong"**

Fury director employs front-line experts p48

**"Beating Ainslie was better than beating the Taliban"**

Toe in the Water crew make waves p84



# BATTLE STATION FORCES TV ON AIR NOW

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## Reassurance mission

### Hundreds of troops set to deploy to Poland

THE British Army is preparing to send a battlegroup of 1,350 soldiers to Poland in October as part of a Nato mission to reassure allies in the troubled region.

Exercise Black Eagle will see more than 350 armoured and other vehicles travel to the area from the UK.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon (pictured above right) made the announcement during a recent visit to the country's capital Warsaw.

It is one of a planned series of manoeuvres due to take place throughout the autumn following Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in Ukraine, and will mark Britain's largest undertaking in the region since 2008.

"I am pleased to confirm our participation in these exercises," said Mr Fallon.

"In particular, the commitment of a battlegroup shows our sustained and substantial support to

Nato's eastern border."

As this issue went to press light infantry troops from 1st Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment were travelling to Poland for Exercise Sabre Junction, a US-led package involving 17 nations.

The UK has also deployed Royal Air Force Typhoon jets to the Nato Baltic air policing mission.

Politicians will further discuss how to respond to future threats in Eastern Europe at a Nato summit in Wales this month.

Tensions have increased since a Malaysia Airlines plane crashed in a pro-Russian rebel-held area in July, killing 298 people, including 10 Britons. Rebels are accused of downing the jet (pictured above).

"We have a strong opportunity to discuss how we will continue our response to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its destabilisation of eastern Ukraine," Mr Fallon added.

"The UK is playing a central role and we are not ruling out further enhancements."

**Eyes east:** Troops of 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh during Ex Sabre Strike in Latvia last year. The Army is set to increase its footprint in Eastern Europe



Pictures: Cpl Neil Byford, RAF

## ARMY IN IRAQ

BRITISH military personnel have deployed on a humanitarian mission to help the people of Iraq following a spate of attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant jihadist group.

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, The Yorkshire Regiment – the exact number of which has not been disclosed by the MoD for security reasons – were sent to the city of Irbil for less than 24 hours last month to prepare the ground for a possible helicopter-borne refugee evacuation from Mount Sinjar.

Members of the Royal Air Force also dropped supplies into the area and conducted reconnaissance missions to monitor the exact position of fighters on the ground.

During a visit to Cyprus, defence secretary Michael Fallon said: "Our military personnel in Cyprus have saved lives by delivering much needed supplies in Iraq.

"Britain should be exceptionally proud of their tireless efforts."



**"The world usually surprises us. The challenge is to be fit and ready when the call comes"** – Gen Sir Peter Wall ponders future of British Army operations, page 11

## STORM FRONT

Personnel test their armoured skills on the prairies of Batus – pages 27-29

British Army Training Unit Suffield

British Army Training and Support Unit Belize

The Falkland Islands

Germany

Cyprus

Sierra Leone

British Army Training Unit Kenya

4



Picture: Cpl Paul Herron

### 1 ENGLAND

#### MUDDER MAGIC

PHASE two and three students from 1 Royal School of Military Engineering Regiment saw their endurance levels pushed to the limit in the Wainscott Mudder in Kent.

Around 300 participants scrambled over a three-mile obstacle course that included Hesco walls, anti-tank ditches and water.

It took the troops an average of 25 minutes to complete the route while dressed in full combat kit and enduring smoke and blank firing to simulate enemy action.

"In my eight years of being in the Army I have never seen an event of this magnitude," said organiser Cpl Dorian Thomas.



### 2 WALES

#### RAPID REACTION SKILL

PARATROOPERS have been training to become the Army's global rapid reaction force.

Ex Bruneval Assault saw members of 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment take to Sennybridge to focus on core infantry skills.

### 3 USA

#### CONQUERING CALIFORNIA

INSTRUCTORS from the Infantry Training Centre, Catterick have taken on some of America's most dramatic terrain in the Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks.

Carrying all their equipment with them, the 16-strong team spent eight days following the John Muir and High Sierra Trails in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Most of the route lies between 8,000 and 13,000 feet but the team also climbed Mount Whitney at 14,526 feet. Among the hazards they faced were bears, snakes and temperatures that ranged from below freezing to 32 degrees Celsius.

Expedition Leader Capt Nick Coats (Scots) said the trip had been an outstanding opportunity to develop teamwork, endurance and self-reliance.

## POWER RANGERS

Meet soldiers responsible for supplying fuel to the Falklands – pages 43-45





**4 TANZANIA**

**KILIMANJARO QUEST**

A TEAM of Army wives raised £55,000 for bereaved Service children by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

The ten-strong group took on the 5,896-metre peak for Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity that supports the youngsters of fallen UK military personnel.

Battling altitude sickness and freezing temperatures, the spouses completed their final ascent in a time of seven-and-a-half hours.

**“ I have never seen an event of this magnitude ”**

**IN NUMBERS**

**10**

World titles won by **Brazilian Roger Gracie**, who has been helping to train the Army's jiu-jitsu stars – page 89



**6 FRANCE**

**CORPS CENTENARY**

INTELLIGENCE Corps personnel have been marking the centenary of their profession by laying wreaths at the graves of two founding members who died in the First World War.

2nd Lt Alfred Sang, who died in October 1914, was one of the original 55 individuals called up for their specialist skills at the start of the war to serve in military intelligence.

Sgt Frederick Lynham was attached to the Intelligence Corps from the Army Service Corps at his death in April 1918.

Both are buried at Bois-Guillaume Commonwealth War Cemetery in France, where serving soldiers and veterans gathered to pay tribute.

Check out *Soldier* later in the year to find out more about the vital role of intelligence in past and present military operations.

**EYES EAST**

British soldiers to embark on reassurance mission in Poland – page 7



**5 ITALY**

**HARNESSING HISTORY**

BRITISH officers serving in France's Rapid Reaction Corps visited Italy with their international colleagues to learn more about one of the key battles of the Second World War.

Dubbed Exercise Citadel Sentor, the battlefield tour examined the Allies' costly campaign to breach the so-called Gustav Line and take Monte Cassino.

The 100-strong group worked through a series of 14 separate lessons, including one which compared obstacle crossing drills in 1944 to today's methods.

**7 HOLLAND**

**REGIMENT RUNNERS**

A TEAM of ex-soldiers who served in 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment are preparing for a 600-mile run from Lichfield to Arnhem to raise money for Service charities.

They will start their attempt on September 12 and aim to reach the Dutch city seven days later to take part in the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Arnhem and Operation Market Garden.

Visit [www.justgiving.com/steve-Forrester1](http://www.justgiving.com/steve-Forrester1) or [www.justgiving.com/steve-Forrester](http://www.justgiving.com/steve-Forrester) to support the cause.



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# “HE TOLD ME TO GET OFF MY BACKSIDE AND DO A PARACHUTE JUMP”

- RE-ENACTING HISTORY, PAGES 46-47



Picture: Graeme Main



## Army chief bows out

‘Stick at it’ Gen Sir Peter Wall tells *Soldier* readers

**A**FTER four remarkably busy years as the Chief of the General Staff, Gen Sir Peter Wall will this month pass his complex duties on to Gen Sir Nicholas Carter.

The senior officer has been in charge of the Army for four years, during which time he has overseen the end of combat operations in Afghanistan, a drastic restructure and the ongoing campaign to recruit more Reserves into the Service.

Speaking to *Soldier* ahead of

his departure, the general said he hoped the organisation would face a more stable period over the coming years.

“I’d like to pay tribute to everybody who has been so positive about just getting on with the changes,” he added.

Before packing up his desk at Main Building the former Royal Engineer took time to answer our final questions. Read on for more.

● Check out next month’s issue for an interview with the new Army chief



**RIFLEMEN** honed their battlefield skills alongside American troops during a three-week exercise on Sennybridge Training Area in Wales. Contending with a mini-heatwave, soldiers of 1st Battalion, The Rifles undertook live firing and a gruelling round-the-clock rotation of rural and urban operations alongside 150 of their foreign counterparts. The package was the return leg of a training visit to Fort Drum, New York State earlier this year to learn cold weather warfare skills from members of 4-31 Infantry Battalion, US Army.

Picture: Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC

“  
If I had  
my time  
again  
I’d still  
join up  
”

## Q&A

We ask Gen Sir Peter Wall for his final thoughts on Army life

### » How has the Service changed during your career?

It has got smaller. I think it is a more professional organisation in the round, more adaptable because of the experiences it’s had and more confident because of its operational credentials borne of ten years of campaigning.

### » What about the Army offer?

In the mid-1970s being a soldier was incredibly poorly paid and to make ends meet quite a few had to do moonlighting jobs. Troops don’t need to do that now. The pay and conditions have kept pace with the commercial market but we need to pay close attention to that as the economy picks up.

### » What does the future hold for military personnel?

Challenge and opportunity – for both units and individuals. We have an excellent training programme with ever-more overseas venues.

### » Where will they deploy next?

The world usually surprises us. There are plenty of unstable regions with the potential for humanitarian crisis at short notice, for example. The challenge is to be fit and ready when the call comes.

### » What has been your most difficult task in this post?

Coming to terms with the 20 per cent reduction in the Regular Army. But collectively we’ve done an excellent job at getting the best capability we can from the resources we’ve been given. The Service is now half the size it was when I enlisted but if I had my time again I’d still join up.

### » Anything you wish you could have done as CGS but didn’t?

No, not really. I was delighted to be asked to stay on for an extra year beyond my three and now it is now time to hand over. I wish Gen Carter the very best of luck – I particularly wish him an easier ride in the next Strategic Defence and Security Review.

### » Do you have a final message for our readers?

Thank you for being part of this great organisation and for your commitment and determination. If you do great things for the Army it will do great things for you. Stick at it!



## "I GRABBED A PICTURE OF MYSELF ON ARSENE WENGER'S TOILET" - MEMORABLE MOMENTS, PAGE 90

Picture: Graeme Main



## Infantry apprenticeships on target

From weapons to writing, courses are helping to improve troops' skills

THE combat infantryman's apprenticeship scheme is going from strength to strength, according to those overseeing it.

Introduced in 2012 for all soldiers who pass through the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, the 18-month course equips them with an NVQ level-two diploma in public services and ensures they reach a good standard in English and maths.

"Buy-in from the units has been absolutely fantastic," said Martin Johnson from The Colleges Partnership, a training provider for the South East.

"The course gives troops all sorts of useful skills which can only benefit them down the line – particularly when a lot of today's weapons require more technical knowledge."

The British Army trains more than 11,500 Service personnel in various apprenticeships each year.

The Infantry was the final trade to begin such a scheme but with around 5,000 students, it is now the single biggest apprenticeship in the Armed Forces.



**X 5,000**

Number of troops currently undertaking the combat infantryman's apprenticeship scheme

“  
It will be an honour  
”

● Living history – pages 46-47



Picture: Jackie Pringle

## TWILIGHT SALUTE IN CITY

RESERVISTS had the honour of undertaking a First World War commemorative event with a difference.

Members of London's Honourable Artillery Company fired a 21-gun twilight salute to mark the anniversary of the outbreak of the conflict.

The spectacle at the Tower of London saw a squadron operate two L118 ceremonial light guns.

The troops can more typically be found performing daytime 62- or 41-gun salutes to mark royal or state ceremonial occasions.

"It was a huge privilege to take part," commented CSgt Joseph Eyre, a detachment commander on the night.

"I've been on gun salutes for big events like the Diamond Jubilee in the past but nothing like this, which took place as the sun went down on a sea of ceramic poppies at the tower."

## MARKET GARDEN AT 70

AIRBORNE soldiers are preparing to commemorate the 70th anniversary of one of the boldest actions of the Second World War.

Op Market Garden saw thousands of Allied troops parachuted behind enemy lines in Arnhem, Holland in a bid to end the conflict. However, the plan failed with thousands of Service personnel killed and captured.

Later this month around 500 members of 16 Air Assault Brigade will travel to key sites in the Netherlands to honour those who fought and died in the mission and undertake commemorative jumps.

"It will be poignant and an honour to jump on the 70th anniversary," said Capt Tim Fleming (4 Para), one of those who will make the journey.

Events will begin on September 19 with a wreath-laying ceremony at the airborne monument in Arnhem followed by a silent march past of veterans and a concert at the John Frost Bridge.

The following day will feature a parachute drop, a memorial service at Ginkel Heath and a commemoration and wreath-laying in Driel.

On September 21 memorial services will be held in both Benedendorpsweg and Van Limburg Stirumweg as well as a concert in the village of Oosterbeek.

For more information visit [www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/arnhem\\_70\\_programme.pdf](http://www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/arnhem_70_programme.pdf)

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**“I WAS HAPPY TO BACK OUR BOWLERS;  
WE HAVE A GOOD SPIN ATTACK”**  
- LOGGIES LIFT CRICKET CROWN, PAGE 84

Picture: Graeme Main



## Job well done in Scotland

Service personnel praised for Games support effort

**T**ROOPS contributed to the success of the 2014 Commonwealth Games by working with police on the security mission in Glasgow.

More than 2,000 Armed Forces personnel – including around 900 soldiers – were involved in the task, which saw them perform general checks and provide specialist skills such as explosive ordnance disposal and air support.

The elements were under the control of Brig Paul Harkness, commander of 51 Infantry Brigade, who said: “We received a warm reception from the city and spectators and were delighted to be involved with such a memorable event.”

The Army also deployed 140

Reservists, who completed a five-day military-run course to prepare for the role.

They were trained in the use of Rapiscan X-ray equipment as well as vehicle searches, conflict management and general guarding.

Regular-turned-Reservist Sgt Kirk Duffus (REME) said: “Being involved in the Games was a chance for us to give something back to society. It was hard work but great to be part of such a fantastic event.”

Service personnel also took centre stage at the opening ceremony as the pipes and drums from The Royal Regiment of Scotland, the Scots Guards and the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards played during the arrival of the Queen.

## No second language, no promotion

LEARNING another language is set to become obligatory for senior ranks under plans to make the Army more culturally aware.

From 2018 officers will not be able to gain promotion above the rank of captain unless they can speak in a foreign tongue.

The new policy applies to both serving personnel and recruits and the relevant training will be provided via the Defence Centre for Languages and Culture at Shrivenham.

French and Arabic are the MoD's preferred choices but officers will be permitted to demonstrate skills in any language in order to progress.

“Bilateral relationships are essential for the Service's future focus on defence engagement,” an Army



**Parlez-vous French?** Skills in the European language rate highly for the Ministry of Defence Picture: Cpl Obi Igbo, RLC

spokesperson said. “From later this year we will be providing linguistic training to enable all sub-unit commanders to demonstrate second-language skills.”

Consult admin officers for details.

“  
It was  
hard  
work but  
great to  
be part  
of it  
”

## IN NUMBERS:

**23**

Size of the Army team that oversees food and fuel resupply to the Falkland Islands – pages 43-45

## ARMY-FRIENDLY CIVVY BOSSES APPLAUSED

■ THE prime minister has launched the MoD employer recognition scheme to acknowledge companies that are highly supportive of the Forces.

David Cameron presented gold awards to ten UK firms at an Armed Forces Covenant reception at 10 Downing Street.

The ERS aims to reward and highlight the work of bosses that show commitment towards the military community.

It is hoped that the initiative will encourage companies to align their values and activities with the MoD's corporate covenant.

The organisations recognised at the inaugural event were BAE, Hewlett Packard, Carillion, BT, Barclays, Systems Consultants Services, Amalgam Training, NHS Scotland, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust and the Royal College of Nursing.

Speaking at the ceremony Defence Minister Anna Soubry, said: “Growing our Reserve Forces is not something that we can do alone.

“This is about working in partnership with employers, giving them the support they need and showing them that in turn, their Reservists can give a lot back too.

“I'm very proud to see so many employers being recognised for the backing and encouragement they are showing their Reservists, and hope to see many more follow suit.”

For more information about the scheme log on to [www.gov.uk/mod/employer-recognition](http://www.gov.uk/mod/employer-recognition)



How did this soldier go from sapper to rapper? Read pages 70-71 to find out.



**Proud employers:** The NHS is just one of the organisations acknowledged

Picture: Shutterstock

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# “I'M TRYING TO TRAIN COMMANDERS HOW TO THINK IN A CONFLICT”

- BRAVING BATUS, PAGES 27-29



## New terms for Reserves

FROM the start of next month Reserves will be able to opt for new terms of service that will allow them to be called out in the same way as Regulars.

The change is designed to help establish an integrated Force and while more than 26,000 Reservists have been called out since 2003 – including for Iraq and Afghanistan – they haven't been able to deploy on the full range of tasks undertaken by their counterparts.

Reserves will be briefed on the alteration and those who elect not to move will continue to

serve under existing agreements.

However, when they re-engage, extend their service or commission troops will be required to accept the new powers – which will automatically apply to those who enlist on or after October 1.

As well as making changes to mobilisation the MoD is planning other modifications to the Reserves package.

These include the removal of the two-year qualifying period to raise a claim for unfair dismissal in civilian jobs where the reason is their Reserve service.

## Flurry of firsts for Cambrian Patrol

MORE soldiers have applied to take part in this year's world-famous Army patrolling event than ever before.

WO2 Stephen Eaves (RRF), organiser of the annual Exercise Cambrian Patrol in Wales, said drawdown in Afghanistan was likely to be behind a surge in applications.

“It's a year of firsts for us,” he told *Soldier*. “Not only will 2014 see the first joint Regular-Reserve team, we also have our first Royal Navy patrol and first mixed-nationality group.”

Organised by 160 (Wales) Brigade, the challenge has been running for more than 40 years.

The latest event will take place on October 17-26 and is fully subscribed but for more details read [2014DIN07-015](#).



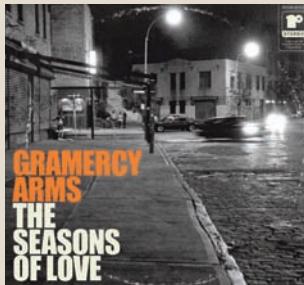
## COMPANY BOOSTS ARMY VISION

■ SECURITY firm G4S will become one of the biggest employers of military Reservists from 2017 after signing a corporate covenant with the MoD.

The firm has pledged to provide at least 600 Armed Forces volunteers as well as guaranteeing former military personnel interviews for jobs.



## THIS MONTH IN REVIEWS



**MUSIC:** “This is an album that has been beautifully crafted”  
★★★★★

**TOP GEAR:** “Loaded squats, deadlifts, shoulder carries, power-slams and cleans are all possible”  
★★★★

– Battle Bag gets the *Soldier* treatment courtesy of fitness fanatic Joe Clapson

PAGES 67-75



Picture: Cpl S Longworth, RLC

## TANKIES BECOME ONE

■ MEMBERS of the Royal Tank Regiment have been reorganised as changes to the British Army's shape continue.

The 1st and 2nd Battalions have amalgamated into a single unit, which now comprises six squadrons.

Hundreds of family and friends gathered in Bulford, Wiltshire last month to mark the formal change in structure.

The Royal Tank Regiment is the oldest tank unit in the world and will become part of the Army's Reaction Force.



## TROOPS TRAINING AROUND THE GLOCK

■ PERSONNEL from 1st Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, have been honing their dismounted infantry skills during a two-week field-firing exercise in Thetford, Norfolk.

As well as training up to platoon- and company-strength live attacks by both day and night, the soldiers got to fire the latest Glock pistol and test out new thermal imagery sighting systems.

The fusiliers also practised attacking targets while wearing chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear protective clothing.





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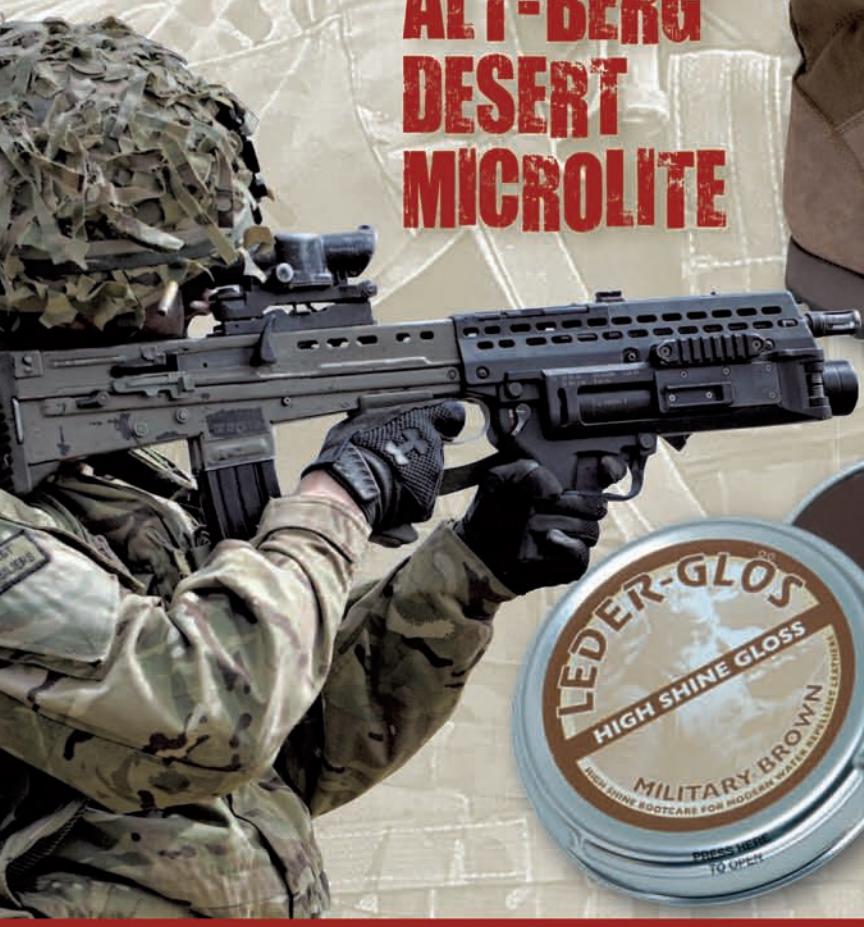
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**"IT WAS A GREAT CROWD TO BOX IN FRONT OF AND I THRIVED ON THAT"**  
**- COMMONWEALTH GAMES, PAGES 78-79**



## Bid to improve Muslim relations

New team will try to increase civilian support for Army's work

**A** GROUP has been set up by the MoD to improve relations between civilian followers of Islam and the British military.

The Armed Forces Muslim Forum will send its tri-Service personnel to various community events in order to highlight the crucial role that members of the faith play in UK defence.

"This will be a voice for the civilian community so it can interact with the military," explained member Capt Naveed Muhammad (R Signals).

"It is outward-looking and hopefully will improve relations with Muslims so that the Armed Forces can get the same level of support from them as from other sections of society."

The group is being backed by Imam Asim Hafiz, the first Armed Forces Muslim chaplain, and the Islamic Society of Britain.

It will work separately to the Armed Forces Muslim Association, which is an internal organisation that acts as a voice for Servicemen and women.



**“We need to make the argument more clearly”**

**“**

"Some people have questioned whether you can be a good Muslim and serve in our military because of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan," Imam Hafiz said. "But the young men I've worked alongside in Afghanistan know they're trying to make the country safer."

"Some are very devout but don't feel a contradiction; we need to make that argument more clearly."

At present there are some 550 Muslims in the Army.

Picture: Shutterstock

## FEARLESS FUNDRAISING



### TRAILWALKER TEAM TRIUMPHS

PARTICIPANTS in the annual Trailwalker challenge have trekked 100km across the South Downs to raise more than £750,000 for The Gurkha Welfare Trust and Oxfam. Around 140 British soldiers took part in the gruelling event. The fastest team to finish hailed from The Royal Gurkha Rifles, completing the course in an impressive 9hrs 56mins. The Queen's Gurkha Signals walkers

also made history by being the first to complete the course while carrying 25kg of weight. "It was an amazing effort and the money raised will have a huge impact," said Oxfam spokesman Louise Gebbett.

**Money raised  
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For: The Gurkha Welfare  
Trust and Oxfam**

**Support Maj Sutton:**  
[www.justgiving.com/  
roland-sutton](http://www.justgiving.com/roland-sutton)

### FINAL JOURNEY

A SERVICEMAN is marking the end of his 41-year military career with a 400-mile trek across Spain. Maj Roly Sutton (RLC) will travel through two mountainous regions during the 15-day journey from Logrono to Santiago de Compostela this month. The Regular-turned-Reservist is aiming to raise more than £2,000 in sponsorship for Combat Stress.

**GOT AN EVENT?**  
[news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)  
[@soldiermagazine](http://@soldiermagazine)

### SPECIAL SOJOURN

TWO ex-soldiers have embarked on a 15,000-mile motorcycle tour of 26 EU capital cities. Harry Glover and Pete Bray, formerly of 4/73 (Sphinx) Special Observation Post Battery and 22 SAS respectively, were due to complete the trip as this issue went to press. They are raising funds for Blesma, Soldiers off the Street and Alder Hey Children's Charity.

**Support the bikers:**  
[www.triumphovertragedy.co.uk](http://www.triumphovertragedy.co.uk)





**“TO BE HONEST I PUT BEING A PILOT ON A PEDESTAL”**  
**- TRADE REALITY BITES, PAGES 35-38**



## RIFLES TRAGEDY

■ TRIBUTES have been paid to two British soldiers who died in a crash in County Antrim.

LCpl David Gwilt (pictured above) and Rfn Dale Harris, both 24, were travelling in a car that was in collision with a tractor.

The soldiers were serving with 2nd Battalion, The Rifles in Lisburn at the time of their death.

A statement issued on behalf of the unit said: "David and Dale were much liked, professional and hugely competent soldiers who had fantastic futures ahead of them.

"The whole battalion is deeply saddened by their loss and our heartfelt condolences go to their families and friends at this most difficult time."

Rfn Harris came from Barnsley in South Yorkshire and LCpl Gwilt came from Bedford.

A 21-year-old man who was also in the car suffered head injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening and the driver of the tractor was treated at the scene.

## VC'S HANDSOME PRICE

■ THE only Victoria Cross to be awarded during the British campaign in Tibet 110 years ago has fetched a record-breaking £408,000 at auction.

Presented to Lt John Grant of the Gurkha Rifles, it was bought by Lord Ashcroft, holder of the world's biggest collection of Victoria Crosses, and will go on display at the Imperial War Museum.

Lt Grant was decorated for storming a clifftop fortress in 1904.

The sale price for his medal beat the previous record for a Victoria Cross by almost £120,000.

## WHAT MADE YOU JOIN?

■ RESERVES are being quizzed on what made them join the Army in a bid to develop future incentives.

A survey is being distributed to selected officers and soldiers and those who receive it are asked to return the form by September 30.

Responses will remain confidential. For more details read ABN 111/14.

# HOME TRUTHS



A personal view from Catherine Spencer, chief executive of the Army Families Federation...



## Town halls are trying

I HAVE had an interesting few weeks meeting local authorities who, inspired by the community covenant, are increasingly keen to learn more about the requirements of military personnel.

Croydon Council is just one of those which has been enthusiastic from the off.

Its staff are keen to understand how to help Reservists but are also very receptive to learning more about the needs of Army families and in particular how they can support spousal employment.

It is encouraging to see such positive action in support of our Servicemen and women and their loved ones.

The Vale of Glamorgan holds a specific Armed Forces Covenant meeting and visiting this forum gave me the chance to explain the challenges facing soldiers. Access to health care and housing for veterans were the biggest areas of concern.

I was really pleased to see that several councillors were themselves ex-Forces, bringing knowledge and understanding to the town hall and continuing to support former personnel in their personal lives.

Of course, I have the benefit of being very aware of the resources and support available to our military community through many channels.

But for a large number of veterans and families it is not

always clear who does what or how to go about asking for help.

An industry-wide study is underway and a report by the Directory of Social Change will hopefully lead to clearer information for service users.

A more joined-up approach for helping people to determine which charity can best support them is likely to help prevent domestic situations spiralling out of control.

Therefore, the more all of us know about the 2,000-plus charities out there the better.

The Army Families Federation's big debate and employment and training fair on October 21 in London will provide troops and their dependents with the dual opportunity of raising issues with Army command and government, and discovering more about employment options.

Anna Soubry, Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans, will want to know all about the challenges that make your life as a Service family difficult.

As an organisation we work on the topics you raise – so please do come along and use your voice to ensure we're tackling exactly what matters to you.

Register for a free place by visiting our website.

[www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

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**remarry to be allowed to retain their pension.** Our role also includes **holding the government to account** to ensure the Armed Forces Covenant recognises the vital importance of pensions.

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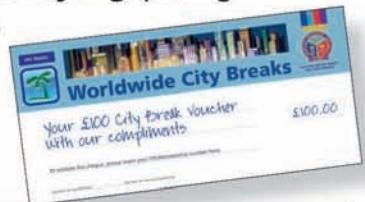
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# “IT'S A MASSIVE FOOTPRINT TO COVER FOR SUCH A SMALL TEAM”

## - FUELING THE FALKLANDS, PAGES 43-45

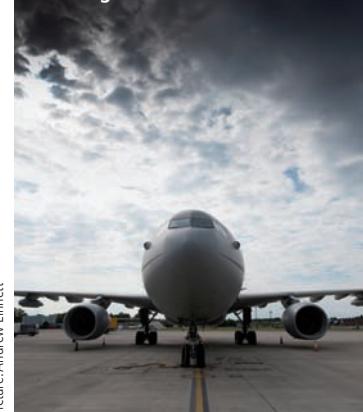


### VOYAGER READY

■ THE last of nine new aeroplanes helping to bring British soldiers home from Afghanistan has been delivered to the MoD.

The Voyager A330 – the Royal Air Force's largest aircraft – will transport people and cargo on future military taskings.

It will also undertake air-to-air refuelling missions.



Picture: Andrew Linnett

### LACEY'S BACK

■ ACTRESS Lacey Turner (*EastEnders*) is set to reprise her role as a young Servicewoman when BBC drama *Our Girl* returns to TV screens in the coming weeks.

The five-part series is the sequel to the one-off feature that aired last year (*Soldier*, March 2013) and follows lead character Molly, now a qualified Army medic, as she deploys to Afghanistan on one of the last combat missions before UK troops leave.

Filmed in South Africa, the production features Ben Aldridge (*Lark Rise to Candleford*) and Iwan Rheon (*Game of Thrones*).



# WIN

## ...A £120 Snugpak sleeping bag

LAST month's magazine was dedicated to the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and our spine lines competition had a similar theme.

(Claude) Choules, (Florence) Green, (Harry) Patch and (Douglas) Thomson were among the last known survivors of the devastating conflict.

This month we have teamed up with outdoor kit specialist Snugpak ([www.snugpak.com](http://www.snugpak.com)) to offer four lucky readers a Special Forces 1 sleeping bag worth £119.95.

This heat retaining kit has a mummy-style shape, quick-release zip, reinforced foot and water resistant outer shell.

To be in with a chance of winning one tell us what links the words on the spine of this issue. Send your answers to the usual postal address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 30. Good luck!



## Troops reflect on 1914

Personnel 'moved' by commemoration ceremonies

**B**RITISH soldiers have described their part in last month's First World War commemoration ceremonies as a "moving" experience.

Countries around the world have started marking the 100th anniversary of the four-year conflict, with UK personnel taking a lead role in numerous civic and military occasions including church services, vigils, memorial dedications and ceremonial parades.

Among the formalities was a national event for the Commonwealth at Glasgow Cathedral, which saw Reservist Pte Dillon Rae of 6th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland read a diary entry from a First World War soldier.

"It was a great honour to do it," the 29-year-old said afterwards.

"It's just something you don't turn down and was very moving."

Events were also held at the St Symphorien Military Cemetery in Belgium and Westminster Abbey in London as well as Cardiff, Belfast and Folkestone.

At the latter location members of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Grenadier Guards



Picture: Sgt Mark Neibert, RLC

**Paying respects to our predecessors:**  
A Serviceman gives a reading by candlelight at the military chapel for HQ 1st (UK) Division in Herford

and the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas helped to dedicate a state-of-the-art memorial arch (*Soldier*, September 2013).

● Gun salute with a difference – page 12

### IN NUMBERS

1,000

People who turned out in Flanders, Belgium to see the unveiling of a memorial to Welsh troops of the First World War. It is the first such monument dedicated to the nation as a whole.



Picture: Cpl Barry Lloyd, RLC



# THE BIG PICTURE



> THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

## MILITARY MAGIC

THE spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo enjoyed a successful three-week run in the Scottish capital. More than 1,000 performers were involved in the show, which featured the sight and sound of some of the best pipers and drummers in the Army's ranks. Entertainers from Oman, Australia, Malta and Singapore also took part, as did a troupe of 35 Zulu warriors who gave an exhibition of traditional dance from their homeland. Pictures: Mark Owens



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# ARMOURED AND READY

Troops rethink the rules during major war game in Canada



Report: Becky Clark  
Pictures: Steve Dock

**W**ITH conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine highlighting the fragile nature of global security, it is clear that British soldiers need to prepare themselves for any eventuality.

And throughout the summer and autumn at the military's largest training area in Suffield, Canada, almost 7,000 troops from 3rd (United Kingdom) Division have been doing just that.

As the Service's Reaction Force under Army 2020, the formation's personnel will rotate through an operational readiness cycle that sees them take turns to spearhead the country's response to crises around the world if the need arises.

*Soldier* dropped in on Exercise Prairie Storm 2, where members of 12 Armoured Infantry Brigade were undergoing final rehearsals for their year-long stint as the lead armoured task force.

In a reflection of the complex situations they may have to deal with, the package included a demanding programme of collective drills followed by a ten-day mission to restore stability to a fictional nation.

Religious tensions, a vulnerable state invaded by an aggressive neighbour, militias and ethnic cleansing were all thrown into the mix, as Maj Owen Pritchard, officer commanding A Company, 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh, described.

"It has been put together very cleverly to represent a number of countries," he explained. "Our mandate in the scenario is to provide peace and security first and let the groups involved find a democratic solution to the problems they have."

"We are learning to deal with certain reoccurring themes, such as the appropriate use of force, understanding the complexity of your opposition, treating local civilians properly and acknowledging the situation they are in."

"It's a steep learning curve for all of us, from the fusiliers right up to commanders, but I've been really impressed with how everyone has grasped it."

For the man in charge of the brigade, the key to readying his personnel for any possible deployment was not just to get them combining conventional mounted close-combat methods with lessons from Afghanistan, but adapt their mindset to fighting a different kind of enemy. **»**

» "The challenge after you come out of a period of operations is not to default back to how you used to do things or prepare for the war you just fought," said Brig Roly Walker.

"It is recognising that all of our adversaries will have been watching us keenly and will already be trying to work out what our vulnerabilities might be.

"So in a way this exercise is not so much about who the soldiers are fighting, or the way they're fighting – I'm trying to train commanders how to think in a conflict, how to manoeuvre their force into a position of advantage and that generally means out-thinking the enemy.

"They're having to make complex decisions on an hourly basis."

As well as adopting a new mental approach, one of the major focuses of the serial was to develop troops' adaptability – a crucial attribute for a response force that could face a variety of combat missions.

While units are structured in three main battlegroups – the lead armoured battlegroup fronted by the King's Royal Hussars, the lead cavalry battlegroup under the Queen's Royal Lancers and the combat support services – on Prairie Storm 2 personnel found themselves working alongside different formations depending on the task at hand.

Col Jim Landon, commander of the British Army Training Unit Suffield, said such flexibility was deliberately incorporated to reflect the fact that future deployments would see the Army selecting from a "menu" of assets as and when required.

"We're training in a relatively standard order of battle but at times we've been taking bits out of one part and putting them in the other – so an Infantry company from the armoured battlegroup could work with the cavalry or vice versa," the officer explained.

"Things can pan out quite differently within the scenario and an objective that one element would have dealt with could be completed by another instead.

"They have been operating alongside each other, going backward and forward and handing over to one another."

Among those putting this new method into practice was Sgt Danny Sumner (KRH).

The troop sergeant of 2nd Troop, A Squadron described how in using

Challenger 2 in multiple roles, he and his colleagues were building on familiar skills.

"We've been doing it for years anyway but in the current climate in which we conduct ourselves we could attach a troop or a pair of tanks to the Infantry or other formations on different types of missions be it fire support, breaking into a village or compound or a front-on-front attack on the enemy as a squadron.

"For the armour-to-armour type infringements we're a pivotal part of this formation and the wider Army under 2020," added the 30-year-old.

"We're heading in the right direction and rewriting the tactics for the enemy we may face in the future which is why I think it's so important that we're out here."

Similarly, members of the regiment's reconnaissance troop were getting to grips with a more varied role.

"We're starting to adapt the way we bring fire support to a much more fast-paced battlefield with a thinking enemy," troop leader Capt Mark Lambert (KRH) told *Soldier* towards the end of the training.

"We've mostly been in vehicles but last night we dismounted to do a close target recce of a village and then acted as a light role platoon to help the Infantry out when they sustained casualties.

"It's all about becoming a smaller more adaptable force that can take on anything we come up against."

As if to underline the need for members of the British Army to be primed and ready to react to world events, the KRH and other units found out during Prairie Storm that they would be taking part in a major exercise in Poland just weeks after returning from Canada (page 7).

Thanks to the first-class training they undergo in Batus, they can be confident they will be at the top of their game for that deployment and any others that follow. ■

**Clockwise from top, Storm riders:**  
The Challenger 2 crews fronting the lead armoured battlegroup; a KRH Scimitar crew maintain their vehicle; soldiers from 1 R Welsh prepare to move into the village of Hettar; a Scots Guards platoon commander assesses the situation as his troops conduct a clearance operation





## BIG, BIGGER, BATUS

### Stats reveal scale of Prairie Storm 2

← **30** →

length, in kilometres, of the lead armoured task force from its forward units to the rear echelons

# 2,300

number of Servicemen and women who took part in the package



**35** length of the serial in days for most troops – the longest time many had ever spent in the field



## MAKE DO AND MEND

Support staff get thrifty to keep the task force on the move

● PRAIRIE Storm 2 not only tested troops' ability to live in the field for much longer than most exercises, it also lived up to its name by delivering some extreme weather conditions.

Heavy rain, heatwaves and violent winds – along with the hard graft of training – soon took their toll on men and machines and the accompanying combat support services had their work cut out to keep the two fighting battlegroups on the move.

Operating in austere conditions and without the level of backup available with Herrick-style supply chains, the formation's mechanical and medical specialists had to think on their feet.

"It's all about improvisation and looking at things in a whole new way," said vehicle mechanic Cpl Michael Henderson (REME).

"You expect spares to be ready on the shelf for you but out here you have to try and make it work and salvage as much as you can.

"The other big problem is the environment – if we have to break into a hydraulic system we haven't got a nice workshop to do it in. It's hard to clean it and prevent the ingress of dirt."

Stationed in the rear echelon, the junior NCO was tasked with fixing any of the heavy platforms that were too badly damaged to be repaired by the forward elements' light armoured detachments, a role that offered little respite.

"It's been 35 days of solid graft pretty much," said the 26-year-old.

"You get maybe a couple of hours sleep during each recuperation phase.

"It's a steep learning curve but you can't get this

training anywhere else in the world."

Meanwhile, tending to the needs of the brigade's human assets was the job of personnel from 36 Squadron, 4 Armoured Medical Regiment, who manned the medical reception station (MRS).

Consisting of everything Army medics would need to deliver care in the field during a contingent operation, the fully mobile unit includes trauma bays, a ten-bed ward and even a dentist's chair – all of which can be packed up, moved and reassembled within hours.

Like the mechanics, the medical staff were training for a scenario in which they didn't have Task Force Helmand's extensive hospital facilities to fall back on.

"This is the first time the MRS has been exercised in its entirety," said Maj Lynda Ricketts (pictured below).

"We don't have the medical emergency response team or anything like that here so we're looking at the possibility of holding a casualty here for longer than we are used to, which would be extremely challenging.

"Working under the tents isn't easy. They leak, stuff gets wet and if people are cold it's hard to get them warm again.

"Equally, when it's hot it's like an oven and difficult to cool anyone down but if we were on operations we'd have to do the best we can with the resources we've got."

While it's not yet known when or where the lead armoured task force could deploy, if it is called out on a mission its support staff will be well-rehearsed in the art of doing more with less. ■



Report: Becky Clark  
Pictures: Steve Dock

**W**ITH nearly 7,000 soldiers passing through the British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus) between May and October this year, Exercise Prairie Storm requires its own army of support staff to be mobilised.

Alongside 22 personnel permanently based in Canada, some 400 additional Servicemen and women have been drafted in to keep the lengthy package running smoothly and safely.

Taking on a variety of roles, the temporarily deployed troops can work long hours for up to seven months if they stay throughout the whole exercise season.

Among the personnel completing a full stint was Lt Mike Hague (RTR), who described how one of his jobs had been to provide safety for the Challenger 2 tanks during live firing.

"Basically, we make sure the turrets don't traverse out of arc and cause injury," explained the 29-year-old.

"It's an important task – you're dealing with live ammunition but it's also fun because you're following behind the tanks in Warriors.

"The second role is acting as an observer-mentor for the simulation phase of the exercise, where you stand back a bit and watch how they are performing.

"For example, I was just interviewing a tank commander who had been involved in a potential fratricide incident.

"He was certain he could take the shot and it was fine but I just needed to make sure he'd been aware there were troops coming in.

"He was, and he went for it and that's just the level of risk judgement you want them to be working at."

A complex system of sensors and trackers, accessed via portable screens, allows Batus staff to closely monitor the movements of every single vehicle on the battlefield.

The technology not only ensures safety but also captures each individual interaction so that events can be reviewed in detail later on.

"It gives us the bigger picture," said Sgt Scott Cooper (Lancs), who was mentoring an Infantry company.

"We can pull up the map and put in the international boundaries for the scenario so we can see if a call sign strays over.

"The analysts back at exercise

control can take a snapshot of it and it can be used in the after action review so you can ask the commander of the vehicle if he knew where he was at that particular point in time.

"There is nowhere to hide. A lot of it comes down to battlefield honesty. If they learn to put their hands up here and admit they went out of bounds it gets them in the right mindset for when they go on ops.

"If they end up maybe driving through someone's crop field they'll be more likely to own up to having caused the damage."

The senior NCO went on to recount an incident during a previous Prairie Storm where a unit had failed to notice that one of their soldiers had been captured by the opposition force.

"When they were asked whether everyone was accounted for they said 'yes,'" he recalled.

"So we played a mock propaganda video back to them of the guy with the enemy and a sign round his neck.

"It had been 48 hours and no one had missed him.

"Obviously they knew then that they had to look at their procedures."

Having been to Batus on exercise in the past, as well as volunteering for several tours on the temporary staff, Sgt Cooper has been on both sides of the training and described why he kept coming back for more.

"As exercise troops you get the benefit of going through the package but as safety personnel you see all the planning and how the different things operate so you can take that away with you," he said.

"I love the training value that can be achieved out here.

"I've been to most proving grounds in the UK and I think this is by far the best that we have to offer.

"It's the only place where you can work as a full brigade or battlegroup like they're doing now."

According to Headquarters Batus, the proportion of soldiers who volunteered to fill a temporary post in Canada this summer is around 67 per cent – up considerably on previous years.

Those who come out not only boost numbers but bring invaluable expertise – for example, search and explosive ordnance disposal



**How Batus staff  
keep a careful  
watch over  
troops in training**

**THE**



**Above and top,  
Supporting cast:**  
Troops from 1 Royal  
Welsh can train  
safely thanks to the  
vigilance of the Batus  
observer-mentors

personnel have deployed for the first time this year to integrate the capability into the wider exercise.

Col Jim Landon, the station commander, said short-term personnel are crucial to the success of the training and that soldiers should look on a potential spell in a support role as an opportunity.

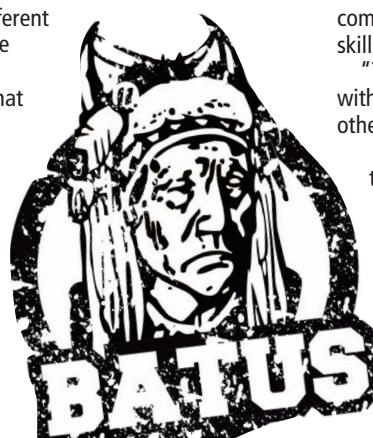
"As such a small team we absolutely depend on them," commented the officer. "They bring skills that we just don't have."

"This isn't easy – it's long days with a fair bit of stress, but on the other hand it's very interesting."

"For all ranks it's a great chance to watch how it all fits together, to contribute to the after-action reviews and to listen to the discussions about tactical plans and so on. You can learn so much at every level."

And a number of recent developments mean that now could be the ideal time for Service personnel to consider a temporary posting to Canada.

The Army's announcement last year that it would commit to staying in Batus for the next 20 years has allowed work to begin on updating the training infrastructure and plans are in place to carry out improvements to the facilities on





# ALL-SEEING EYES



camp in the longer term.

Changes to the welfare packages for temporary staff have also been introduced to ease the impact of separation on families.

"Some of the grants have been extended so that their loved ones back in the UK get more support and the other thing we've managed to do is to get a flight paid for people to go home during the summer break if they want," added Col Landon.

"There is also another allowance which gives you a contribution towards flying your spouse out here should you wish to do so.

## Manoeuvre mentors:

Batus staff like Sgt Scott Cooper (right) and Lt Mike Hague (above) follow the action in specially adapted vehicles



"To anyone deciding whether they want to come, or those who have found out they are being sent, I would say it's a positive experience. There's a lot to be learnt and there are some fantastic travel opportunities.

"When I was a commanding officer in The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers I always used to say that soldiers join the Army for money, adventure, travel, excitement and sport – which happens to spell "mates" – and for many people Batus offers all of those things." ■



Report: Becky Clark  
Pictures: Steve Dock

**S**IMULATED casualties have long been a feature of Army training but thanks to special effects experts from the film industry, troops on exercise in Batus benefit from new levels of authenticity in their rehearsals for contingency-style conflicts.

From shrapnel injuries and gunshot wounds to full-scale massacres, special effects are helping to turn the plains of south-west Canada into a scene worthy of any war movie.

Lisa Belyea is a make-up artist working with Stops Tactical Training Canada, a company that provides special effects and extras to Canadian and British military exercises around the country.

Armed with prosthetics, gels, powders and several types of "blood", she creates different levels of wounds as required by the training scenarios.

"We can do catastrophic injuries where the person would die, so that's head and chest wounds, serious bullet holes and most of the amputees," she told *Soldier* during Exercise Prairie Storm 2.

"Others may be close to death, for example gunshot wounds or evisceration and then there are the more minor injuries like scrapes and shrapnel wounds, although those can also be life-threatening, depending on where the victim has been hit."

"We're always pleased to do mass-casualty situations because we get to create lots of special effects – we can do up to 20 wounds for something like that, plus we have body parts that we prepare ahead of time."

One such scenario saw troops from 12 Armoured Infantry Brigade having to cope with the aftermath of a massacre on the civilian population by insurgent fighters.

In a scene of grim devastation, dismembered torsos, heads and limbs lay scattered across the ground and even though the serial is fake, the props are so lifelike that they have genuine shock value.

"The soldiers say our effects are probably the best they've ever seen," commented Mrs Belyea.

"However, some of the actors playing the civilians have been refugees from real war zones in the past and have seen that kind of thing for real, so they ask to be excused because it's too difficult."

In order to create such believable injuries, special effects experts study photographs of genuine wounds.

A strong stomach, as much as a knowledge of human anatomy, is required for success in this business.

Mrs Belyea, who has 25 years' experience in the industry, described how she and her team have to be well-versed in bone structure and musculature, but also need to understand how the appearance of a wound changes depending on when it happened and where on the body it sits.

"We have different kinds of blood, from lymphatic blood that looks like someone has been dead for three or four days, which is kind of a yellow paste, to flow blood, which is much redder and blacker blood if an organ has been hit, as well as blood jam to make it look like the blood has congealed," she commented.

"We also need to know how bruising develops, though that is more important when we work on films, where continuity between scenes is a big factor.

"Here we don't have to be quite so exact."

A military exercise may not require quite the same level of realism as a Hollywood blockbuster but when British soldiers are called upon to deploy to the world's trouble spots, they can be confident they have had the best possible preparation for any scenario they may face. ■



## THE MAKING OF A WAR WOUND:



- Gels are applied first that match the casualty's skin tone, before tissue and powders are used to build up texture around the simulated injury.



- Finally, different types of fake blood are painted or sprayed onto the injury to depict dried, congealed or fresh wounds.

# TRUE BLOOD

How special effects lend film industry realism to military exercises

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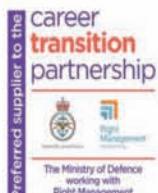


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Colchester:	02 - 13 Feb	Barnstable (RMBC):	02 - 13 Feb
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# AIRMING HIGH

The Army Air Corps is on the hunt for more pilots – have you got what it takes?



**This could be you:** Sgt Jonny Riley and Sgt Mark Bowker (both AAC) who are currently on their Apache conversion-to-type course

Report: Becky Clark  
Pictures: Steve Dock

**H**E first time it really hit home for me was when I was on a solo flight at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. "It was a beautiful sunny day and I looked down and saw the shadow of a helicopter and the realisation dawned – that's me flying that aircraft.

"It puts a big beaming grin on your face."

Sgt Lee Smith (REME) is recalling

a personal milestone on the long road to becoming a fully-fledged Army Air Corps pilot.

The 30-year-old is four months away from finishing the operational flying phase of a course that can take more than two years to complete.

After he qualifies and receives his coveted wings he will go on to specialise in operating one of the corps' current airframes; the Lynx, and its successor the Wildcat, the Gazelle, the Bell 212, the Apache, the Dauphin or the Islander twin-engine turbo prop plane.



With postings available worldwide and the undeniable kudos attached to being a pilot, it might come as a surprise to many that far from there being a long queue of soldiers applying to train as aviators, the corps is struggling to recruit enough non-commissioned officers to join the course.

"To be honest, I put being a pilot on a pedestal and I'd almost defeated myself before I started," says Sgt Smith, reflecting on why many potential aeronautical applicants fall at the first hurdle.

"But the course is very much about learning to walk before you run.

"You're taught what you need to know, when you need to know it and as long as you stay within that learning curve you will be fine."

George Bacon, SO1 AAC recruiting and pilot selection, agrees that the tendency to think of air operators as higher beings puts some people off even attempting the training.

A former pilot himself, he speaks from experience when he urges soldiers not to automatically assume they lack the attributes of an aviator.

"My golden rule is that you don't know if you don't apply," he says.

"I had no idea until I filled in the form and did the tests all those years ago that I had the qualities that could potentially suit me to a front-line military pilot's role.

"And that was an eye-opener because there must be hundreds of individuals out there with the same kind of skill set.

"Just because the Apache looks hugely technical and is bristling with weapons, people think you have to have superhuman skills to fly it.

"You don't; you just need a set of natural abilities.

"It's a multitasking, multi-skilled environment that requires you to be able to handle lots of different inputs and decide what to action first."

In particular, Mr Bacon explains that non-specialist trades such as the Infantry should recognise that battlefield know-how counts for just as much as technical savvy.

"Mental skills and the ability

to handle a front-line aircraft are absolutely key, yes, but what the infantry, or indeed any other Serviceman or woman, brings to us is the understanding of how battle scenarios work," he adds.

"That hardened experience really transfers into a working knowledge of how we apply the aircraft in the combat zone."

While the training is doubtless some of the longest and toughest that the Army has to offer, for those who make the cut the reward is being able to fly some of the Service's most impressive pieces of kit.

After months of hard graft, Sgt Mark Bowker, a former Intelligence Corps soldier, is among those undergoing their so-called conversion-to-type training – in his case for the fearsome Apache attack helicopter.

Highly computerised, the airframe is a big step up from the analogue systems found in training craft such as the Squirrel.

"It's a major transition," admits the 29-year-old.

"Your scan rate – that's how your eyes take in all the information from outside, from your instruments and displays – goes up massively.

"It's a bit overwhelming and it's easy to get maxed out.

"We have to be at the top of our game when we fly. It's serious and the instructors hammer that home.

"You end up waking up in the middle of the night doing checks in your head."

Despite the pressures of the role, by making it as a pilot he has fulfilled a boyhood dream.

"I'd always wanted to do it since I was a kid but I didn't think it was possible until I joined the Army and realised you could do it as an NCO," he says.

"I was on Op Herrick and I actually read an article in *Soldier* about becoming a pilot so when I came back from tour I put in the paperwork.

"To anyone else thinking about it I would say the only thing you can do is try.

"You might have the aptitude and not even realise it." □



**Top:** Sgt Alex Rockett and Cpl John Holmes (both R Signals) run through the controls of a Squirrel helicopter during the operational training phase

**Left:** Sgt Mark Bowker in the pilot seat of the fearsome Apache

**The course is very much about learning to walk before you run**  
**Sgt Lee Smith (REME)**



START HERE

# THE PATH TO PILOT

**“**  
The aptitude tests involve things like maths, physics, multitasking, hand-eye coordination and problem solving. Lots of it is memory and retention of information. The best advice I can give is read the preparation pack you get with your joining instructions and do some Brain Trainer on the Nintendo DS to improve your mental agility.  
**”**  
SGT ALEX ROCKETT (R SIGS)

## STEP 3: HELICOPTER FLYING SCHOOL AND OPERATIONAL FLYING TRAINING

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## STEP 4: PROVISIONAL WINGS

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## SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION



## STEP 2: ELEMENTARY FLYING TRAINING

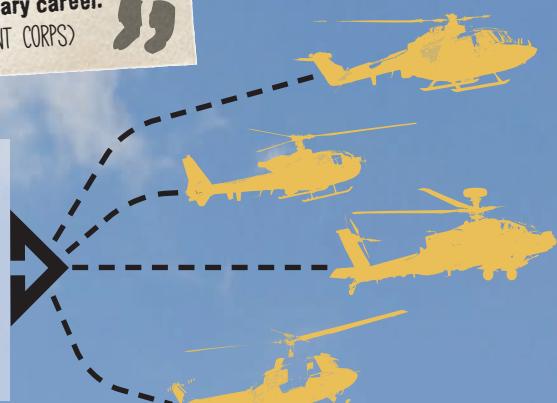
► Introduction to Army aviation, survival training and initial flying training on Grob tutor fixed-wing aircraft, including solo flights.

**“**  
I don't know how to explain the first solo flight. I suppose inside you're giddy that you're actually doing this. When you see aircraft flying around you think it must be so hard but once you're shown how you realise it's not. It's a bit like when you first pass your driving test and you drive on your own for the first time. I was just smiling.  
**”**  
CPL JAMES CHEESMAN (YORKS)

**“**  
It's a relief when you get your wings. The course is a long slog, as well as being detrimental to your social life, but receiving my wings was probably the proudest moment of my entire military career.  
**”**  
SGT MARK BOWKER (AAC, EX-INT CORPS)

## STEP 5: CONVERSION - TO - TYPE TRAINING

► Now you must apply your skills to a particular aircraft; Lynx, Gazelle, Bell 212 or Apache.



# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

## CANADIAN DEPLOYMENT OPENS NEW DOORS FOR ROOKIE PILOTS



**F**ROM Brunei to Canada, via Kenya and Arizona, recently qualified Army Air Corps pilots may find themselves jetting off to an enviable list of foreign destinations.

One potential posting could see them based in British Army Training Unit Suffield (Batus), supporting personnel on exercise.

The station's resident detachment of Gazelles carry out tasks such as such as casualty evacuations, area recce's and equipment moves throughout the year.

However, for the first time since the year 2000 they have been joined by Lynxs from 672 Squadron, 9 Regiment Army Air Corps – among them new pilot Sgt Wayne Van Staden.

The 32-year-old decided to try his hand at flying after serving as an Army Air Corps ground crewman and had only recently completed his Lynx training when the formation was deployed to give aviation support to 12 Armoured

Infantry Brigade units on Exercise Prairie Storm.

"It's enjoyable for us coming straight out of the pilot course and consolidating our skills because we get a lot of hours out here," he commented.

"There's much to learn from the helicopter commanders we're flying with because they are very experienced and know the battle space.

"I thought the live-firing phase was particularly impressive – I'd never seen anything like it before."

In addition to gaining valuable training, Sgt Van Staden and the rest of the 55-strong detachment are helping to shape the way the Lynx's successor, Wildcat, could be utilised in post-Afghanistan contingent operations.

Capt James Pusey, the unit's 2iC, explained: "The idea is to deploy a similar platform with a camera and a heavy machine gun and get back into more generic flying, as well as combining that with some Herrick

THE LIVE-FIRING PHASE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE – I'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE

Sgt Wayne Van Staden, AAC

tactics and come away with a picture of how Wildcat could fit into a battlegroup.

"The Afghan mindset is one of air supremacy; there's no real threat because we're confident our defences can defeat the enemy's surface-to-air missiles. But here the idea is we're flying with an enemy whose anti-aircraft measures are a danger.

"We can't operate with impunity so we have to stand off at greater distances or do low-level flying to evade radar threats and tracking, as well as overcoming issues such as comms challenges and how the downlink works from the camera.

"It has been extremely useful for us."

With the Lynx likely to make a return during Prairie Storm in 2015, it looks as if more new pilots will not only have the chance to fly challenging missions over the Canadian grasslands, but to get involved with developing Army aviation in the future. ■

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**Report: Richard Long**  
**Pictures: Graeme Main**

**W**ITH Army redundancies hitting the headlines in recent times the need to recruit new blood to feed into the bottom of the organisation could easily be overshadowed.

However, such efforts are continuing at pace and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers are going all out to sell the prospect of an exciting career in their trade to potential soldiers.

The corps engagement team has been deployed to technology colleges, schools and significant events in the world of aspiring engineers to offer an insight into one of the Service's key arms and boost numbers at local recruiting offices.

Having avoided losses in the fourth tranche of reductions the REME has been free to concentrate on the future and these soldiers have a clear target group in mind when they hit the road.

"We are looking at every trade in the corps and the 16- to 24-year-old age bracket is the major demographic," WO2 Dave Webb (pictured below right) told *Soldier*.

"As a corps we are not doing too badly with recruitment. There are seven trades in total but two of those – technical support specialists and recovery mechanics – are slight areas of concern.

"We are heavily focused on going into schools and advertising the offer of an apprenticeship.

"We can take someone with three GCSEs and mould them into a degree-level student.

"I think people are surprised to see that we are recruiting. When we attended the Grand Depart of the Tour de France we were asked 'why

are you here?' – they don't realise we are a bottom-fed organisation."

To gain a greater understanding of life in the REME, potential recruits are invited to attend week-long regimental insight courses that are held each month.

The programme includes visits to the corps' two trade schools as well as a day of generic low-level Army training. The team also hosts familiarisation days for existing personnel looking to transfer.

Like any organisation they would welcome greater resources but with four dedicated members working under WO2 Webb they are making the most of what is available.

With an operational tour and a promotion to her name after just four years in the Service, LCpl Vicky Hale was seen as a perfect candidate for the job and is ideally placed to talk to those who are looking to follow in her footsteps.

"Recruiting is close to my heart because I love engaging with people and the work we do has a big impact," she explained.

"We are looking to get as many individuals as we can with the right qualities. When we go to events we find that a lot of people are unaware that the Army does engineering and that makes a big difference.

"We went to a college in Plymouth and from a class of 30 students six went along to the local recruiting office. That gives us a real sense of pride.

"We would recruit a lot more people if they understood the options that are available. Even if we are talking to an 11- or 12-year-old they are learning and this is a career for them to consider in the future." ■

**WE CAN TAKE SOMEONE WITH THREE GCSES AND MOULD THEM INTO A DEGREE-LEVEL STUDENT**





# ENGAGING ENTERPRISE

## REME TROOPS TAKE TO ROAD ON RECRUITING MISSION

**Taster session:** REME recruiters SSgt Colin Irvin, SSgt Paul Peters, SSgt Tom Basford, SSgt Richard Armstrong and LCpl Tony Howell introduce visiting students to Army equipment



## MECHANICS OF THE FUTURE

*Soldier spoke to two students sampling life in the REME to get their thoughts on a possible Army career and the success of the corps engagement team*

● **Oliver Henderson (16)**

"The REME is a good corps to get into and I would like to have a trade to fall back on in the future.

"I've always been interested in cars and mechanics and I have to be doing something that is hands-on.

"This is a very good course, we get to look at all the equipment we could be working on – seeing a tank in a picture is very different to seeing one in real life."



● **George Conway (16)**

"I want to become a recovery mechanic. It will be a bit of an adrenalin rush and will offer a sense of adventure.

"The personnel on this course have been pretty good. They are very welcoming and have given us a broad understanding of what they have experienced in the Army. We read about different things but it is great to get that personal perspective.



"I think it is really important to have an opportunity like this. If you go through training doing something you are not interested in it costs the Army money but this gives you a chance to think about what you really want."

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# FUELING THE FALKLANDS

**When an entire community relies on your team to get a job done properly, the pressure is really on**

Report: Joe Clapson

Pictures: Graeme Main

**T**HE idea of relying on a small group of military personnel for the food in your cupboards, the fuel for your heating and the clothes on your back might seem absurd but in the Falklands that is the stark reality of everyday life.

Due to the UK territory's reliance on imports, an unsung band of soldiers have to work around the clock, 365 days a year, just to ensure the civilian community remains fed, watered and fully viable.

Their most important task is to turn around the islands' resupply ship at breakneck speed, and this responsibility falls to a mere 23 soldiers from 460 Port Troop, 17 Port and Maritime Regiment, based at East Cove Port at Mare Harbour.

Explaining the vital role of his Royal Logistic Corps team, commanding officer Capt Emerson Hanley said: "Our blokes run and manage the whole port.

"Everything for the Falklands – from food and clothes to oil and vehicles – comes via the ship." →

**Pipe power:** SSgt Talent Chapwanya (RLC), one of three soldiers manning the Falkland Islands' main storage depot near Mount Pleasant



→ Packed full of cargo for distribution across the islands, the giant vessel docks at the quiet outpost every six weeks or so before being reloaded with exports.

As soon as it drops anchor the Army's port operators, mariners, movers, droppers and shipwrights spring into action.

The Falkland Islands are the ship's last port of call after stopping at various British bases around the world and personnel are expected to empty and reload it within three days.

"Once it comes in things get really manic down here," added Capt Hanley.

Not only is the ship loaded with essential items for living, it is heavily stocked with key components for military training across the territory.

One recent consignment contained 213,570 kilograms of ammunition for use on the ranges.

LCpl Isoa Damudamu, driver of a 50-tonne crane, said: "It's a very important job because without the stuff coming off the ship the lads based at Mount Pleasant Airfield and residents on the island would be without supplies."

Cpl Matthew Fieldhouse added: "A lot of people in the Army and civilian world don't know what we do but they need us for their food, vehicles and clothes – without us the whole Falklands operation wouldn't work."

As well as relying on what is imported, it is critical to many domestic businesses and farmers that their goods are shipped out for sale.

The export of wool is a major part of the economy in this region and, typically, 40-60 containers of the stuff will go aboard the resupply vessel.

"It's the islanders' well-being and livelihoods at stake and that's why it's so important that the job gets done properly and quickly," said WO2 Mark Davies, the site's quay foreman.

"We always know when stocks are running low because the meals get worse and people start asking when the ship is coming in."

The highly coordinated process of lifting, shifting and manoeuvring with heavy goods vehicles ensures that every container, crate, pallet and machine fits perfectly into place as the vessel is loaded up again.

"Getting everything into the little spaces is like a giant jigsaw puzzle," commented Cpl Fieldhouse.

Crane operator Pte Simon Ruck said that although the work is challenging, it is rewarding as well.

"Back in the UK at Marchwood we do a similar job but we are working on all sorts of different tasks whereas here we just have one set role and we can get on with it," he added.

"It means that we get more experience on the kit and become specialists in what we do." ■



GETTING  
EVERYTHING  
INTO THE  
LITTLE SPACES  
IS LIKE A GIANT  
JIGSAW PUZZLE

**Quay operator:** Crane driver LCpl Isoa Damudamu at the islands' East Cove Port at Mare Harbour

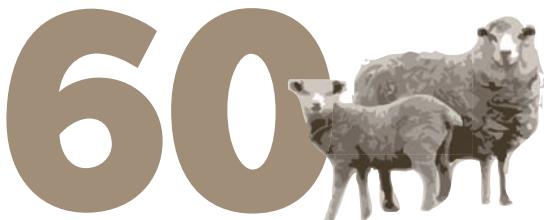


Scientific measure: LCpl Darren Walker and Pte Neil Lockwood (both RLC) test petroleum in the Falklands



## THEY HAVE THE POWER...

### SHIPMENT STATS:



Containers of wool exported after each visit



**185**

Tonnes of food imported on each vessel



**80**

Percentage of the Falklands' kit and equipment that comes in via the resupply ship

**4,300**

Weight, in tonnes, of an average consignment

● AS incredible as it may seem, a team of just three Royal Logistic Corps personnel are responsible for the safe distribution of every drop of diesel and aviation fuel required in the Falklands.

And there are a fair few drops to look after.

The amount stored at the main storage depot near Mount Pleasant Airfield exceeds 55 million litres and every three to four months the Maersk Rapier crude oil tanker arrives to pipe a further 18.5 million litres of fresh fuel into the camp before it is distributed via huge cross-country pumps to Stanley, the islands' capital.

"It's a massive footprint to cover for such a small team," explained the depot's boss, SSgt Talent Chapwanya.

The loggies not only manage the maze of pipes, pumps and giant storage towers at the base but also carry out quality control checks on the fuel to ensure it is safe to use prior to being stored or sent elsewhere.

"We test for things like visual appearance, density, flashpoints, conductivity and filter blocking," explained SSgt Chapwanya.

"It's like a little science lab where we take samples and then send them away to external

agencies in the UK for more vigorous testing."

Every single vehicle, generator and aircraft that runs on diesel or aviation fuel is reliant on the liquid energy that passes through the facility.

And as SSgt Chapwanya emphasised, there are substantial risks if the job is done incorrectly.

"You cannot afford to get it wrong with aviation fuel because, unlike a vehicle breaking down, you cannot have aircraft falling out of the sky," explained the senior NCO.

The importance of being the main energy source for the Falklands is not lost on the troops in control.

"Without us nobody can do anything," added LCpl Darren Walker (pictured above left)

"The camp, the exercises and the aircraft all require power from our team.

"We also fuel passing ships that have been authorised."

The RLC trio might look rather unassuming as they go about their business armed with nothing more than beakers, goggles and measuring syringes.

But it is thanks to their hard work and commitment behind the scenes that the Falkland Islands keeps moving.



**Report: Becky Clark**  
**Pictures: Graeme Main**

**T**HIS year's commemorations marking milestones in the First and Second World Wars have made 2014 a time for national reflection, as well as prompting a surge of public interest in military history.

But while most Service personnel and civilians may decide to learn more about the events of last century by visiting a museum or going on a battlefield tour, one group of enthusiasts go to much more serious lengths to remember the past.

This month, as thousands of visitors gather in Arnhem for the 70th anniversary of Operation Market Garden, they will be joined by an Army of re-enactors who will bring the Allied troops of September 1944 to life again.

Among those recreating the airborne, or "Market", element of the famous battle will be a re-enactment group known as C Troop, 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron, whose namesake was decimated while trying to capture Arnhem bridge.

Paul Brindley, a former Royal Engineer Reservist and long-time member of C Troop, spoke to *Soldier* about what happened to the

formation in 1944.

"They were a recce unit heavily involved in Market Garden – they got practically wiped out," he explained.

"Their role was to be the eyes and ears of the battalion so they would go out in front and report back on what they could see but for Arnhem they were actually told to race to the bridge and take it using Jeeps mounted with Vickers machine guns.

"They were badly ambushed and lost a lot of men within the first couple of hours. Many of the rest ended up as prisoners of war."

The ex-sapper's interest in The Parachute Regiment was prompted by a family connection – his uncle served as a paratrooper during the campaigns in North Africa and Italy, as well as Arnhem.

"I asked him what it had been like and he told me to get off my backside and actually do a parachute jump, so I did and I've been doing it ever since," the 48-year-old recalled.

"I'll be dropping into Arnhem this month as part of the Pathfinder Parachute Group [an organisation that promotes military-style, round-canopy

## ● WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH C TROOP OR THE GARRISON?

[www.ctroop-reenactment.co.uk](http://www.ctroop-reenactment.co.uk)

[www.thegarrison.org.uk](http://www.thegarrison.org.uk)

jumping across Europe].

Explaining his 25-year passion for historical re-enactment, Mr Brindley added: "It's alright reading about the past in a book or watching something on the television but there's nothing like actually seeing the equipment and how people dressed at the time.

"And it's important to get it right. People want to see that you've paid attention to detail, especially serving and ex-paratroopers.

"If they see you looking sloppy or badly dressed they don't like it."

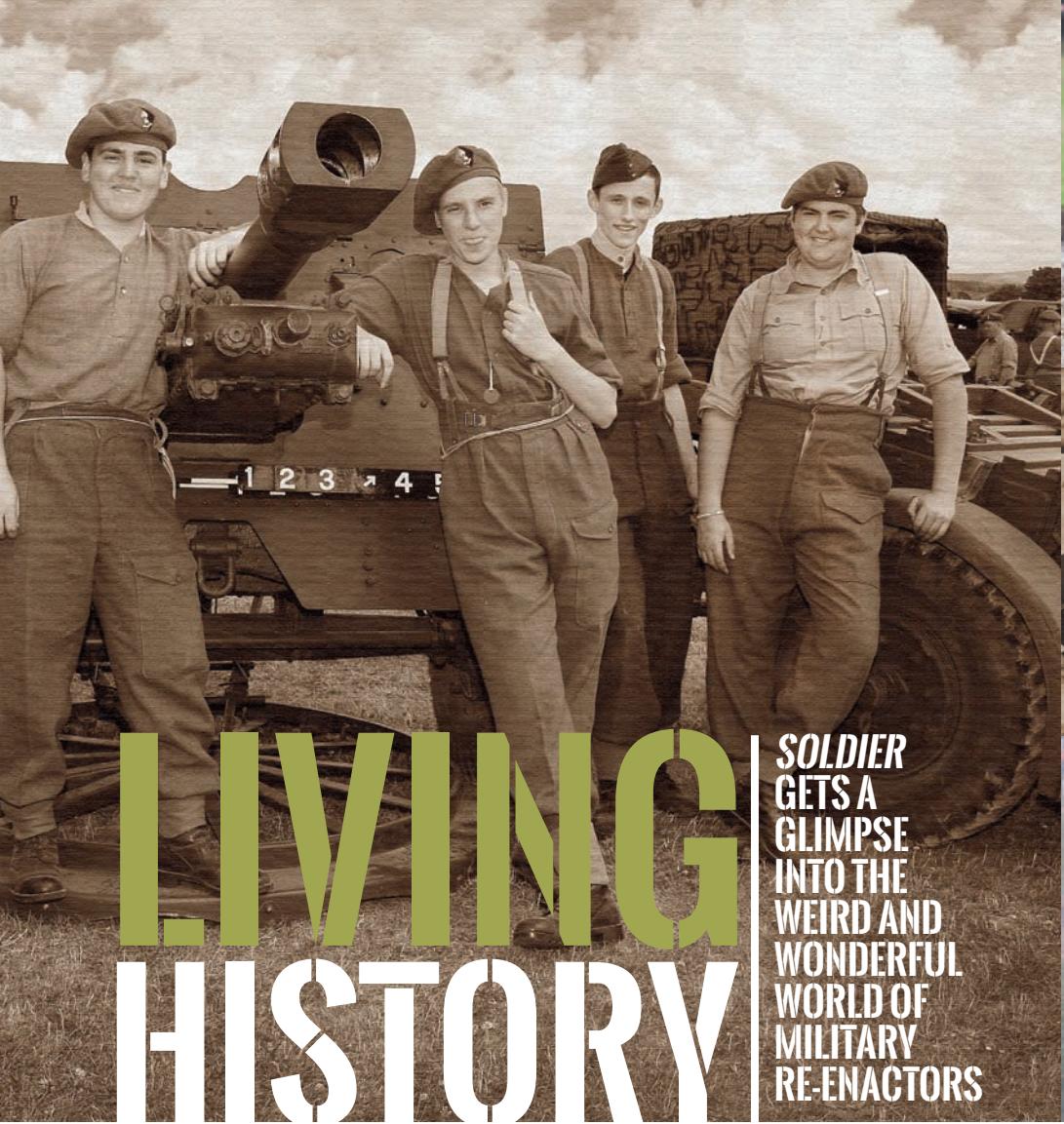
While looking the part is important – and, at £200 upwards for a full uniform, not cheap – re-enactors also pride themselves on keeping old-fashioned traditions and skills alive.

The Garrison Artillery Volunteers specialise in demonstrating the art of Second World War-era gunnery techniques.

With detachments spread across the UK and Europe, the dedicated group performs public displays throughout the year and has recently seen its profile grow with the appointment of former chief of the defence staff Gen Sir David Richards (late RA) as its patron.

**IF A VETERAN WATCHES US IN ACTION AND SAYS THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE DID, WE'RE HAPPY**





# LIVING HISTORY

**SOLDIER GETS A GLIMPSE INTO THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF MILITARY RE-ENACTORS**

For the Arnhem anniversary its members will be retracing the race by XXX Corps personnel to secure the Rhine Bridges – the part of the operation known as "Garden".

"We portray the role of 124 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery and we'll be travelling to Holland with two 5.5-inch guns and four 25-pounders," said Keith Brigstock, the organisation's training officer.

"We'll be going up Club Route with all of our vehicles, which are nearly 70 years old."

One of three gunner regiments in the 50th Tyne and Tees Division, 124 Fd Regt were cut off by a German counterattack whilst defending XXX Corps' flank, so instead began giving artillery support to the US 101st Airborne Division.

"The Americans thought our artillery was superb," Mr Brigstock continued. "Every time they called for fire it was on target."

"During the war the Germans knew the one thing the British Army had better than anyone else was its field artillery."

As a former bombardier who still works at the School of Artillery

**WE'LL BE GOING UP CLUB ROUTE WITH ALL OUR VEHICLES, WHICH ARE NEARLY 70 YEARS OLD**

in Larkhill, the 52-year-old not only knows the corps' history inside out, he is also determined to preserve techniques from the era.

"We concentrate on the technical side of gunnery – everything that a genuine artillery troop would need to do in 1944," he explained.

"We believe that we could put a live round down the range and get it on the target area because we train to do it."

"For me, it's a skill that we're having to rediscover because they've been lost over the years – today it's all done with electronic aiming units and GPS."

"We're trying to honour the guys who went before us on the guns by keeping that knowledge alive."

"If a veteran watches us in action and says that's exactly what we did during the war, we're happy."

Spending money and time dressing up as soldiers from bygone eras may still seem a bit extreme to most people.

But thanks to groups such as C Troop and The Garrison, visitors to commemorative events in 2014 won't have to rely on just their

imagination to picture what life was like for those who fought 70 or 100 years ago. ■

**History lessons:** Enthusiastic members of re-enactment groups C Troop, 1st Airborne Reconnaissance Squadron and The Garrison Artillery Volunteers getting it right at Bovington's Tankfest



# FROM HERRICK



**Furious five:** Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman, Brad Pitt, Michael Pena and Jon Bernthal star in *Fury*

# TO HOLLYWOOD

FORMER SOLDIERS ADD THEIR EXPERTISE TO WARTIME EPIC

## Interview: Richard Long

**A**S a battle-weary tank rolled across the sludgy field a hail of enemy fire erupted and the pulsating sound of explosions filled the air.

For the recently retired soldiers looking on, the sight was nothing out of the ordinary and, if anything, provoked memories of a not-too-distant past.

However, the action didn't stem from once-familiar exercises on Salisbury Plain or the vast prairies of Batus but was instead a key scene in a major big-screen release starring one of Hollywood's top names.

*Fury*, which hits cinemas next month, tells the story of a five-man Sherman tank crew on a deadly mission behind enemy lines in the Second World War and having Brad Pitt in the lead role it is sure to be a box office smash.

With Shia LaBeouf and Michael Pena also featuring among an impressive roll-call there is no doubting the acting credentials on show.

But to achieve the realism and attention to detail demanded by American director

David Ayer (*End of Watch*) an entirely different cast list was required.

Enter the Forces-based talent agency Soldier in Blue.

Founded by Charlie Rotheram and Xander Rawlins – both former officers with Herrick campaigns to their names – the company provided a stable of extras that doubled as military advisers and played a significant role in recreating Service life in April 1945.

"We wanted former personnel to have this opportunity," Rawlins, an ex-captain in the Grenadier Guards, told *Soldier* during a break in filming.

"David had a set idea of what he wanted from the movie but there were other areas that had perhaps not been thought about. That is where we can help.

"All the people we have got here are acting as tank commanders or gunners. The guys we are using are ex-cavalry so they have a lot of experience to draw upon.

"Most of them have just left so it is great for them to jump straight into something like this and a lot of what they are doing is similar to their previous roles."

Rotheram, who served as a captain in

the Light Dragoons, said the venture was created to help Servicemen and women in their transition to civilian life and they are looking to get more people involved in future film and television projects.

He added: "We left the Army within the last 18 months and for the majority of guys it is quite difficult to settle into a new career during that period.

"This is a short-term opportunity and is quite a big bridging gap. It gives them time to weigh up their options and is a stepping stone to something else.

"This is a military focused film with specialist jobs so we are ideal.

"On any given day we will have a military adviser on set along with eight to twenty extras. The light tanks I used in Afghanistan are not too different to these so we can talk to the cast and they will understand what is happening."

One of those to swap his uniform for an on-screen role was David "Sting" Rae, a former regimental sergeant major in the Light Dragoons who served for 22 years and completed tours of Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan.





He was transformed into a German tank commander for his movie debut but with a void of armoured experience on set he was also asked to help run a boot camp for the main cast ahead of filming.

"These were five actors who did not necessarily know each other," he said. "What was quite obvious for us, from an Army background, is that these soldiers were close and tightknit."

"So it was all about getting them in the same place."

"As a tank crew you live together in a box. There is a lot of chat going on and you really get to know one another. That had to be recreated in the actors; it had to come through and

shine on camera."

Having retired from Service life eight months earlier the shift from squaddie humour to mixing with the movie industry's A-list could be considered a culture shock but for Rae the transition was seamless.

"I didn't have any preconceptions about it," he explained. "They are nice guys and great to work with."

"They are massively into the film and really want to do justice to the people who served in the forties."

"When we told stories about our careers and some of the things we've seen they were really interested in the emotional side and how they could portray that on screen. I really wasn't expecting that."

Former US Special Forces operative Kevin Vance was also impressed with the attitude shown by the leading men

during the boot camp process.

Having served for 14 years he was keen to pass on his experience and ensure they grasped the important concepts of combat fatigue and working as part of an integrated unit.

"It was basic soldiering, first aid, map reading and tactics," he told *Soldier*. "The goal was to keep them cold, wet and tired and offer a taste of what these people went through."

"We wanted to give them a sense of respect as to what the men and women of the Second World War had to live in every day."

"We were very successful. We broke them down then built them back up."

"As they are actors we didn't know how hard we could push them, we had to read them every day but they gave us everything and really kept going."

"They were great students and came at this with a lot of intensity. They have done this film a great service by being the way they are."

• *Fury* is released in UK cinemas on October 24





## THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

FILM-MAKER David Ayer talks to *Soldier* about the driving force behind his latest release and his desire to have former personnel on set

### ■ Give us a brief overview of *Fury*, what is the movie about?

"The story is set in Nazi Germany in 1945. A Sherman finds itself cut off behind enemy lines, trying to complete a mission.

"It's about a tank crew and the brotherhood of combat. It's five guys in a small unit who live for each other."

### ■ What was your inspiration for making the film?

"I'm a former serviceman and you get tired of people getting it wrong in movies. My grandfathers were career officers who served in the Second World War.

"That conflict has always been depicted as a clean war but the difficulties personnel faced then are the same now. It is just as complex and painful, the fighting and scars hurt just as much."

### ■ Why were you keen to get ex-soldiers involved in the project?

"I wanted to get it as realistic as possible and most of the tank crews are former soldiers from the British armoured community.

"It's cool for them to come and work on the movie and I've put their skills to the test. I think it is a fun way for them to transition.

"If you served in the military you know how to work in large organisations. The Armed Forces gives you a mindset that translates into the film world.

"I love to work with veterans as you share a centre ground. It is all about the attention to detail and that is beaten into you from boot camp."

### ■ The attention to detail that you mention is at a very high level. How did you achieve this and why was it so important?

"For this film I have been going back to after-action reports, wartime imagery and what the men went through in their own words to try and understand things better.

"You cannot experience battle unless you've seen it first hand. But I can take the audience into the emotional world of the soldiers and nail the specifics of tank combat.

"Everything is about the detail and we have to get things like uniforms exactly right. If you've been in the Service and you see things that are wrong it drives you mad.

"As my grandparents fought in this war I owe it to their legacy to nail it."

### ■ Do the cast and crew share your vision? How has the filming process panned out?

"The actors are really well trained and the crew here is unbelievable. Everyone knows we are chasing something special and they are really putting the effort in.

"There is a lot of standing around being bored, just like in the Forces, but then you have five minutes where everything has to suddenly mesh together. It is a great experience."

## STAR OF THE SHOW

■ WHILE Brad Pitt is credited with the lead role, the curator of The Tank Museum in Bovington would argue he is simply a supporting actor to the film's real star.

David Willey agreed to lend the attraction's prized asset – a German Tiger 131 tank – to the crew for use in the film and after an anxious deliberation over his decision he was delighted to see it shine in front of the cameras.

"We were approached early on by the producers," he explained. "At first we did not think we would ever lend the Tiger as it is so important for us.

"We went through a lot of soul searching but in the end it was sensible for us to get involved.

"It is a nervous feather in our cap. We want to make sure we do the right thing with the tank as it is an important part of history but we also have to look after it and not put it at any risk."

The Tiger was captured by 48th Tank Regiment in Tunisia in 1943 and was later brought back to Britain for evaluation.

It arrived at The Tank Museum in 1951 and a programme was launched in the 1990s to get it running again. It is now the only working model in the world.

"This is probably the tank that attracts the most interest but it is hard to pin down why it captures the imagination," Mr Willey added.



Above:  
Director  
David Ayer  
on set with  
Brad Pitt



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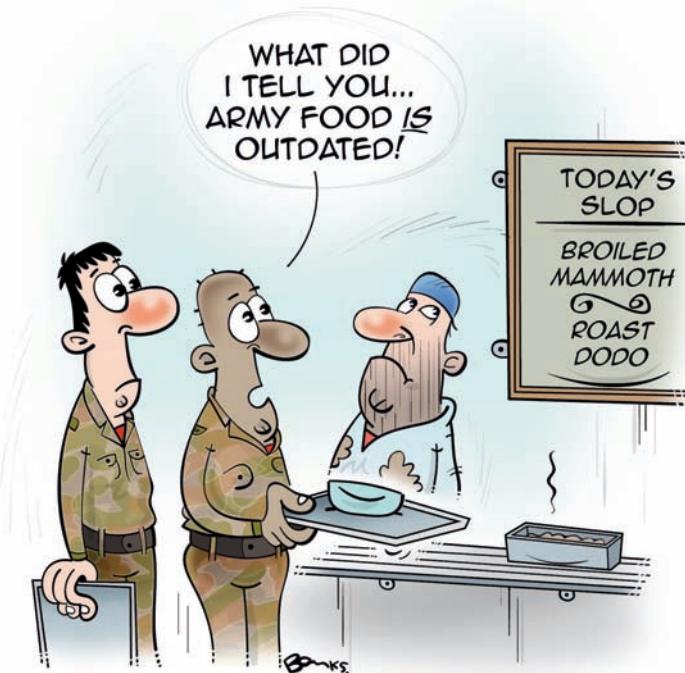
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# TALKBACK

YOUR letters provide an insight into the issues at the top of soldiers' agendas... but please be brief. Emails ([mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:mail@soldiermagazine.co.uk)) must include your name and location (although we won't publish them if you ask us not to). We reserve the right to accept or reject letters, and to edit for length, clarity or style. Before you write to us with a problem, you should first have tried to get an answer via your own chain of command.

”



## ‘Cookhouses can’t cut it’

It was stated in your January feature on supplements that all products carried by Naafi stores are informed Sport-approved but this is not true.

Londis stores stock QNT – a brand that does not carry the logo or appear on the website.

Furthermore, supplements are not necessarily required by active personnel who have a healthy diet.

The real issue, however, is that the nutritional balance served up by many Army cookhouses is outdated.

Any top-level sportsperson would turn their noses up at the starchy, greasy, protein-deficient meals on offer and rightly so.

We are expected to perform like athletes yet fed like prisoners. Research in nutrition has made leaps forward in the past decade, yet this has in no way been reflected by the food made available to soldiers.

Maybe instead of worrying about supplements the Service should focus on the quality of food that is available in both its dining facilities and various retail outlets.

It is natural that any soldier who takes his health and fitness seriously would resort to supplementation to aid success, so surely promotion of safe products should replace the archaic “all bad” message being pushed out.

— Cpl Tom Hunt, R Signals.

**Brig John Donnelly, DPS(A), replies:** I am concerned to hear that one of our contractors is not complying with departmental policy on stock holding of supplements and that you are worried the meals provided do not meet the agreed nutritional balance.

In the first instance you must raise these issues with the chain of command through your messing committee.

Your unit quartermaster, who monitors the soft facilities management contracts, can then take this forward.

While I encourage and support all members of the Army to maintain a high level of all-round health and fitness, we are not expected to perform or eat like top-level athletes.

I reiterate my advice regarding supplements: they are not needed if you eat a balanced diet.

Whether you choose to buy your food from within barracks (pay as you dine) or at other commercial outlets is a matter for you.

However, most supplements are a poor food substitute and often more expensive.

If you do want to take supplements, ensure they are safe and avoid stacking them.

“

I STILL HAVE TO TRAVEL A GREAT DISTANCE TO SEE MY FAMILY

”

## Left high and dry living in France

I ASKED my administrative staff if I could claim the get you home allowance but they said I couldn't because I reside in France

I know serving soldiers can claim this if they live in the UK so will this ever be altered for people who are in my situation?

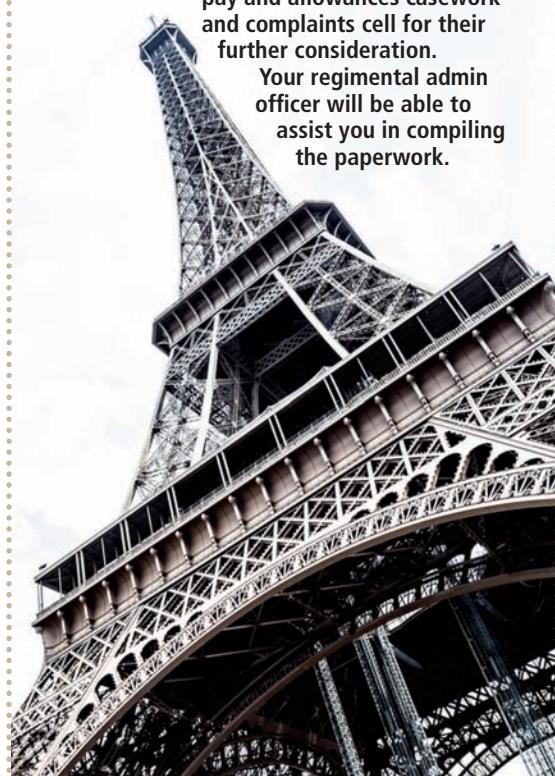
I have to travel a great distance to see my child and family due to my battalion's location. — Sjt Lee Pennington, Rifles.

**Brig Donnelly, DPS(A), responds:** Your admin office is absolutely right. Get you home (travel) eligibility is limited to the UK and its islands, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The qualifying residence has to be either a family home, a privately maintained property or a residence at work address, the definitions of which are in the first chapter of JSP 752.

Your home in France does not qualify on these grounds, but if you still think you have a genuine case for this claim you should submit casework to the pay and allowances casework and complaints cell for their further consideration.

Your regimental admin officer will be able to assist you in compiling the paperwork.





## DIGITAL DOSSIER

This month's elite tweets

### #FIRST WORLD WAR

**@AlMacartney**

Honour the heroes of #WW1 by using the freedom that so many gave so much for

**@AliBunkallSKY**

I don't imagine there will ever be a day when the haunting sound of a lone bagpiper fails to make my hairs stand up. #StSymphorien

### #OUR GIRL

**@BradleyMiller**

#OurGirl Was great fun to film on and be part of looking forward to seeing the new series!

### #SOLDIERSPORT

**@armyboxingteam**

The disappointment of defeat will go away @Alanna543 and @ashleyjohnw but the glory of winning @Glasgow2014 medals will last forever

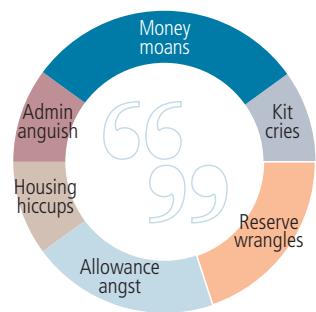
### #FURY

**@lullatoned**

#FuryMovie looks like it's gonna be good. And I don't even like Brad Pitt

## SLICE OF SERVICE LIFE

This month's ruminations from the ranks...



### #FIRST WORLD WAR

**@AlMacartney**

Honour the heroes of #WW1 by using the freedom that so many gave so much for

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I don't imagine there will ever be a day when the haunting sound of a lone bagpiper fails to make my hairs stand up. #StSymphorien

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“

I'M GLAD TO  
SAY THAT  
MY WIFE  
IS NOW  
MAKING  
A GREAT  
RECOVERY

”



In your August issue the article entitled "First World War heroes" states the first man to be recommended for the Victoria Cross in the conflict was Capt Francis Grenfell [on August 24, 1914]. This is not accurate.

A current television series, supported by the National Archives, and the VC listings of that institution, state the first recipient was Lt Maurice Dease of The Royal Fusiliers for his actions during the defence of Nimy Bridge at Mons on the morning of August 23, 1914.

In fact, his posthumous VC was received by family members in the post and comments from them resulted in a change whereby this medal would be presented by the reigning monarch.

Pte Sidney Frank Godley of the 4th Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers also received the decoration for his actions in the same battle.

Cpl Charles Jarvis, Corps of Royal Engineers, was awarded for action carried out at Jemappes in demolishing a bridge during the defence of Mons on August 23, 1914.

These actions took place before Capt Grenfell's and are accredited as the first three awards. — **Mr William Taylor**.

**The editor responds:** Thank you for keeping the *Soldier* team on our toes. Although you are right that Capt Grenfell's bold actions were not the first of the conflict to be rewarded with a Victoria Cross, recipients were listed — or "recommended" — in order of rank in the London Gazette.

Therefore, Capt Grenfell appears first on that list.

## In praise of Army welfare

IN June 2014, while I was serving on Op Herrick 20, my wife underwent a major but routine operation. There was no need for me to return to the UK as she had good family support.

Unfortunately, an incident occurred that caused a life-threatening situation and the surgeons had to battle to save her life.

Six hours later I was informed that she was critical but in stable condition. However, they advised me that I should be by her bedside.

It wasn't apparent what the final outcome would be and that is when the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre sprang into action.

In 34 years of service I have never needed to use the Army's welfare system but when I did it was fantastic.

My family called me from the UK while I was talking to the personnel

desk in theatre, and they were sympathetic and understanding.

Within three hours I was being flown out of Camp Bastion and I arrived at my nearest regional airport in the UK just 12 hours later.

I must thank all those involved — Army, Royal Air Force and civilians alike, for an outstanding service while my head was elsewhere.

I am glad to say that after a few weeks in hospital my wife is now making a remarkable recovery and life is getting back to normal.

It is so easy to focus on negative issues while the Army goes through some significant changes but it is just as important to reflect on and advertise the positives — and my story is certainly one of those.

Thank you to you all. — **Maj Steve Crisp, RA**.

## GOT A GRIPE?

[news@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:news@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

[@soldiermagazine](http://soldiermagazine.co.uk)

## Infantry career quandry



Tough terrain: Infantry career path changes cause concern

“  
IT SEEMS NAIVE TO BELIEVE SUCH A SMALL DETACHMENT COULD PROVIDE THE SAME EXPERIENCE  
”

**C**AN someone clarify the recent changes to senior NCO logistics-related (G4) qualifying courses?

My battalion – and I have had confirmation it is the same in my brigade – has been told that Infantry units no longer hold any G4 senior NCO positions apart from motor transport warrant officers and sergeants and that with immediate effect the all arms storeman course is no longer sufficient for promotion.

Is this correct? If so, what happens to individuals who have been advised to follow this career path?

I work with three senior full corporals who are all due promotion, and deserve it for the work they do in the quartermaster's department.

These soldiers have spent a decade dedicated to this field and are now being told that, effectively, it no longer exists because of the introduction of Royal Logistic Corps attachments within Infantry units.

But even after the introduction of

these detachments there is still a great logistics burden to be carried out by the formations themselves, and it seems naive to believe such a small group could provide the same levels of continuity and experience.

RLC detachments are an excellent way to supplement units but cannot replace what has gone before.

If what we are hearing is correct, there is little incentive for the Infantry members of these G4 departments.

I hope we've been misinformed. – **Name and address supplied.**

**Brig Bob Bruce, Director Combat, responds:** The decision to reduce Infantry quartermaster departments by six cap badged posts and replace these with four Royal Logistic Corps positions was a response to the improved accounting processes offered by the Management of the Joint Deployed Inventory software and Army 2020 restructuring

requirements.

This was part of the so-called first line optimisation programme and was trialled by units from 7th Armoured Brigade.

The Directive for Infantry Employment 2014 states there is no progression beyond corporal in the all arms stores accountant role in the Infantry.

I recognise these changes may come as a disappointment to some NCOs but the Service remains a meritocracy and opportunities for promotion continue to exist for everyone through School of Infantry courses.

Alternatively, those with a deep professional interest in logistics may wish to consider transferring to a different part of the Army.

Those affected by this development should consult their regimental careers management officer for additional information or advice.

## TRAINING SHOE SLIP



● I WAS told by clothing store personnel that I'm not entitled to issued training shoes because I'm not a trainee. They based their claim on a letter they had on display.

However, it stated that individuals were allowed "one pair of trainers at public expense". When I pointed this out I was simply told, "you are not getting any trainers – end of!"

Are they correct or not? – **Name and address supplied.**

**Lt Col Simon Blake, S01 Availability Management, Logistics Support, responds:** I don't know what the displayed letter is exactly and I don't condone the alleged blunt response. However, they are correct. Trainees are issued with two pairs of training shoes – one for indoors and another for outdoors – as part of their initial clothing scale entitlement but once trained must purchase such footwear at their own expense.



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**Spine line winners:** Tim Gregory, Telford, Shropshire; Maj Richard Wade, Larkhill, Wiltshire; C Duckworth, Shefford, Bedfordshire.

**Stalingrad DVD:** Jayne Hawkes, HQ Hereford Garrison; Cpl Simon Haggerty, Hull; Sharon Jackson, Army Reserve Centre, Kempston; Emeka Igboekwe, Deepcut, Camberley; Robert Whelan, Soda Sandby, Sweden.

**Cycling kit:** Anna Lenton, Farnborough, Hampshire.



**September 5:** Closing date for entries into the **Army Photographic Competition 2014**. Read ABN 19/14 for details.

**September 7:** Dogs on Parade at the Essex Dog Training Centre, Brentwood CM15 9NN. Celebrating military dogs in aid of The Afghanistan Trust. Visit [www.glenart.co.uk](http://www.glenart.co.uk)

**September 17-21:** Commemorations marking the **70th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem**. Search the Army website for full details.

**September 28:** West End Heroes charity gala performance in aid of Help for Heroes. Starts 1930 at the Dominion Theatre, London. For further details visit [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com)



**ABF The Soldiers' Charity:** 0845 241 4820

**Armed Forces Buddhist Society:** Chaplain 020 7414 3411; [www.afbs-uk.org](http://www.afbs-uk.org)

**Armed Forces Christian Union:** 01252 311221; [www.afcu.org.uk](http://www.afcu.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Humanist Association:** [www.armedforcesthumanists.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesthumanists.org.uk)

**Armed Forces Muslim Association:** Chaplain 0207 414 3252; [www.afma.org.uk](http://www.afma.org.uk)

**Army Families Federation:** 01264 382324; mil 94391 2324; [www.aff.org.uk](http://www.aff.org.uk)

**Army LGBT Forum:** [www.armylgbt.org.uk](http://www.armylgbt.org.uk); chair@armylgbt.org.uk

**Army Libraries:** 01252 340094

**Army Ornithological Society:** [www.armybirding.org.uk](http://www.armybirding.org.uk)

**Army Welfare Service:** 01980 615975; [www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/welfare-support.aspx)

**Blind Veterans UK:** (formerly St Dunstan's)

[www.blindveterans.org.uk](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk); 0207 7235021

**British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association:** 0208 590 1124; [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org)

**Career Transition Partnership:** 0207 4696 661

**Children's Education Advisory Service:** 01980 618244; [enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk)

**Erskine:** [www.erskine.org.uk](http://www.erskine.org.uk); 0141 814 4569

**Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society:** 01372 841600; [www.combatstress.com](http://www.combatstress.com)

**Family Escort Service:** 0207 463 9249

**Forcesline:** UK – 0800 731 4880; Germany – 0800 1827 395; Cyprus – 080 91065; Falklands – #6111; from operational theatres – Paradigm Services \*201; from anywhere in the world (CSL operator will call back) – 0044 1980 630854

**Forces Pension Society:** 0207 820 9988

**Help for Heroes:** 0845 673 1760 or 01980 846 459; [www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

**Heroes Welcome:** [www.heroeswelcome.co.uk](http://www.heroeswelcome.co.uk)

**Joint Service Housing Advice Office:** 01722 436575

[www.poppyfactory.org](http://www.poppyfactory.org)

**The Royal Star & Garter Homes:** 020 8481 7676 [www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)

**uk4u Thanks!:** 01798 812081; [www.uk4u.org](http://www.uk4u.org)



## INTELLIGENCE

The following Army Briefing Notes, Defence Internal Briefs and Defence Information Notices can be found online by visiting [www.armynet.mod.uk](http://www.armynet.mod.uk)

**ABN 105/14:** Academic qualification for direct entry officers

**ABN 104/14:** Short international attachments and exchanges

**ABN 103/14:** Domestic abuse PS4A

**ABN 102/14:** Guidance BFBS Forces TV

**ABN 101/14:** Battlefield studies policy

**ABN 100/14:** Women in combat survey on AKX

**ABN 99/14:** Bonus arrangements for medical and dental officers transferring from AFPS 05 to 15

**ABN 98/14:** Army sports Moss sites

**ABN 97/14:** Women in ground combat roles internal opinion poll

**ABN 96/14:** Application of Army manning levers

**ABN 95/14:** Army skills offer

**ABN 94/14:** Result of new employment model consultation

**ABN 93/14:** Army 2020 newsletter

**DIN 2014DIN01-161:** New average property price list – January 1, 2014

**DIN 2014DIN01-158:** Process for exceptional case funding requests

**DIN 2014DIN01-157:** Army officer terms of service – offer to extend intermediate Regular commissions and medium commissions

**DIN 2014DIN01-156:** Army Reserve – specialist Reserve officers and other ranks: entry process and career management

**DIN 2014DIN01-154:** Academic qualification for officer direct entry (Regular and Reserve)

**DIN 2014DIN01-153:** Medical technician (radiographer) student entry criteria

**DIN 2014DIN01-152:** Medical technician (biomedical scientist) student entry criteria

**DIN 2014DIN01-151:** Medical technician (operating department practitioner) student entry criteria

**DIN 2014DIN01-149:** Army officer terms of service – extensions to short service commissions for Regular officers completing in-service first degrees

**DIN 2014DIN01-148:** Stonewall workplace equality index 2015

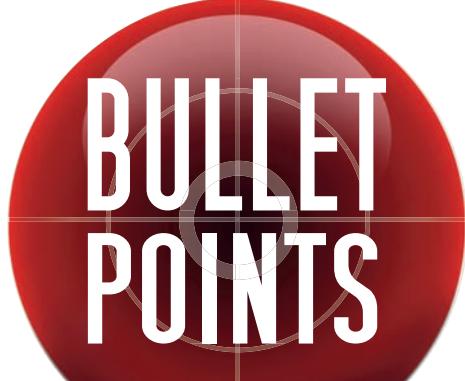
**DIN 2014DIN01-147:** Support available for staff facing legal proceedings

**DIN 2014DIN01-146:** MoD firefighters 2013 pay award

**DIN 2014DIN01-145:** Changes to MoD firefighters level of abatement effective from April 1, 2013

**DIN 2014DIN01-143:** Pension rights accrued for medical officers and dental officers (MODO) in the Armed Forces pension scheme 05 with entitlement to the MODO bonus scheme

**Continued on page 59**



**Medal Office:** 94561 3600 or 0141 224 3600

**Mutual Support (Multiple Sclerosis group):** [www.mutualsupport.org.uk](http://www.mutualsupport.org.uk)

**National Ex-Services Association:** [www.nesa.org.uk](http://www.nesa.org.uk)

**National Gulf Veterans' and Families' Association Office:** 24-hour helpline 0845 257 4853; [www.ngvfa.org.uk](http://www.ngvfa.org.uk)

**Poppyscotland:** 0131 557 2782; [www.poppyscotland.org.uk](http://www.poppyscotland.org.uk)

**Regular Forces' Employment Association:** 0121 236 0058; [www.rfea.org.uk](http://www.rfea.org.uk)

**Remount:** 01451 850 341; [www.remount.net](http://www.remount.net)

**Royal British Legion:** [www.britishlegion.org.uk](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk); 0808 802 8080

**Royal British Legion Scotland:** [www.legionscotland.org.uk](http://www.legionscotland.org.uk); 0131 550 1583

**RBL Industries Vocational Assessment Centre:** 01622 795900; [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk)

**Scottish Veterans' Residences:** 0131 556 0091; [www.srvonline.org](http://www.srvonline.org)

**Service Personnel and Veterans Agency:** 0808 1914 218 (from the UK); 0044 1253 866043 (from overseas)

**SSAFA:** 0845 1300 975; [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk)

**Stoll:** (formerly known as the Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation) 0207 385 2110; [info@stoll.org.uk](mailto:info@stoll.org.uk); [www.stoll.org.uk](http://www.stoll.org.uk)

**The Not Forgotten Association:** 020 7730 2400; [www.nfassociation.org](http://www.nfassociation.org)

**The Poppy Factory:** 020 8940 3305



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**DIN 2014DIN01-142:** Diplomatic clearance procedures for the Benelux

**DIN 2014DIN02-012:** Use of defence fixed telecommunications service and public telephone systems for the transmission of official and official-sensitive information

**DIN 2014DIN03-022:** Document and material retention and preservation in relation to Op Banner, Northern Ireland, 1969-2007

**DIN 2014DIN04-140:** Partnered electronic warfare support element

**DIN 2014DIN04-139:** Declaration out-of-service date for X1 lighting equipment FFR

**DIN 2014DIN04-138:** Declaration of obsolete – STLS, SAR2, CES NSN 5855-99-553-2991

**DIN 2014DIN04-137:** Management of morphine auto-injectors and training devices

**DIN 2014DIN04-136:** Declaration of ALC obsolescence equipment

**DIN 2014DIN04-135:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents (June-July 2014)

**DIN 2014DIN04-134:** Prepared demolition charges

**DIN 2014DIN04-133:** Enabling contract for the supply of national and international standards, commercial online databases and items of digital media to the MoD

**DIN 2014DIN04-132:** Publication of the government quality assurance framework for acquisition

**DIN 2014DIN04-131:** Amendments to operational medical modules contents – formal introduction into service of role 2 afloat modules

**DIN 2014DIN04-130:** Working at height personal protection equipment 'all up mass weight limitation'

**DIN 2014DIN04-129:** Trooper torch, declaration of out of service, X1-6230 99 613 3622

**DIN 2014DIN04-128:** Obsolete/obsolescent management of general purpose test and

measuring equipment

**DIN 2014DIN04-127:** Physical training equipment procurement process 2014/15

**DIN 2014DIN04-126:** Secure management radio equipment obsolescence

**DIN 2014DIN04-125:** Declaration of obsolete/obsolescent of the following ammunition

**DIN 2014DIN04-124:** Reducing repairable stock pool for vertical gyro NSN: 6615-99-6405417 part number NDN8462-05

**DIN 2014DIN04-123:** Cleanse of legacy inventory held under IMCs/DMCs: W18, W22, W2, W9, ILAW, M1, MOR51, L96, A338, A246, A243, A231, A232, A214, A230, A170, A210 and A169

**DIN 2014DIN05-022:** Defence munitions customer comments procedure

**DIN 2014DIN06-012:** Publication of JSP 538, issue 3.1 – *Regulation of the nuclear weapon programme*

**DIN 2014DIN06-011:** Importation, possession, selling or use of Kava Kava

**DIN 2014DIN07-126:** Defence information management passport

**DIN 2014DIN07-125:** Exercise Pipedown 2015

**DIN 2014DIN07-124:** AMS PQO attendance on ROSC(L)

**DIN 2014DIN07-123:** Clearance requirements and planning considerations for transit into and through the Federal Republic of Germany for operations, exercises and training

**DIN 2014DIN07-122:** Tri-Service university short course programme – academic year 2014/15

**DIN 2014DIN07-121:** Joint and single Service CI, intelligence, photographic and geospatial training courses for training year

**DIN 2014DIN07-120:** Exercise Gallipoli 2015

**DIN 2014DIN07-119:** Exercise Canary Gold 2014/15

**DIN 2014DIN07-118:** Exercise Rucksack 15 – exercise instruction

**DIN 2014DIN07-117:** Defence Academy research papers: opportunity to sponsor/propose topics

**DIN 2014DIN07-116:** UK Special Forces units briefing course dates, selection course dates and medical standards

**DIN 2014DIN08-009:** Claims for loss of, or damage to, personal property (regulation claims)

**DIN 2014DIN08-008:** Private use of MoD-provided vehicles by MoD personnel (including commuting journeys) – tax and NI liabilities

**DIN 2014DIN09-013:** Birthday honours list 2014 – MoD civilian recipients

**DIN 2014DIN10-048:** Army snowboard and ski freestyle championships 2014 – Exercise Snow Method 14: October 16-November 1, 2014

**DIN 2014DIN10-044:** British Army motorsports event – Autumn Leaves 2014

**DIB47/14:** Performance management 2014/15 – revised policy and assessment guidance

**DIB46/14:** New employment model – results of the consultation with Service personnel and their families

**DIB45/14:** Ministerial appointments and private office contacts

**DIB44/14:** Message from the Rt Hon Michael Fallon MP, Secretary of State for Defence



**The boy soldiers of No 6 Boys Training Regiment, Royal Signals** will be holding their last muster this month in Beverley. Anyone with memories is requested to contact John Wardle on 01246 590573 or email [john.wardle2011@btinternet.com](mailto:john.wardle2011@btinternet.com)

**The Royal Pioneer Corps** annual reunion will take place at St David's Barracks, Bicester on September 26-28. For further details contact Norman Brown on 01869 360694.

NO. 874

## JUST HOW OBSERVANT ARE YOU?



TEN details have been changed in this picture of New Zealand's Maori warriors at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Circle the differences in the left image and send the panel to **HOAY 874, Soldier, Ordnance Barracks, Government Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 2DU** by

September 30, 2014.

A photocopy is acceptable but only one entry per person may be submitted.

First correct entry drawn after the closing date will win £100; the second and third will receive £25 gift vouchers.

The results will be announced in the

November issue. Usual rules apply.

**July's winner:** First correct entry drawn at random was WO2 John Malone, Tayforth UOTC, Dundee.

**Runners up:** Mrs Lesley Sare, Leros Army Reserve Centre, Canterbury and Penny Fennon, Westbury, Wiltshire.



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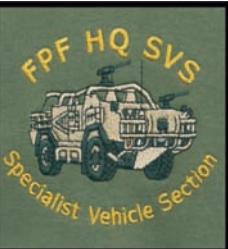
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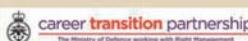
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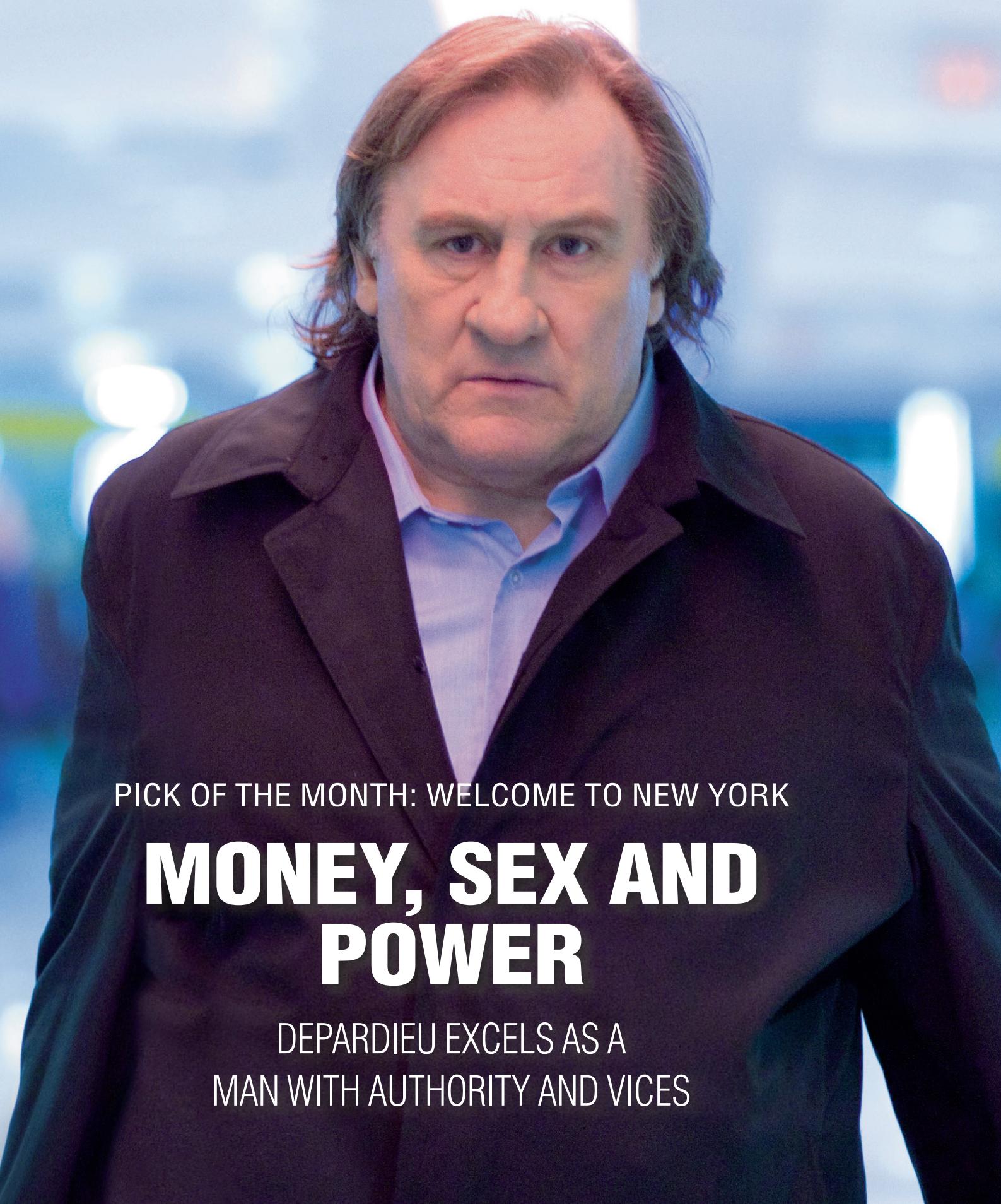
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# MOVIES



PICK OF THE MONTH: WELCOME TO NEW YORK

## **MONEY, SEX AND POWER**

DEPARDIEU EXCELS AS A  
MAN WITH AUTHORITY AND VICES

Review: Joe Clapson

**T**HE controversial movie inspired by the sex scandal surrounding former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn has been released on DVD and will no doubt leave home audiences with dropped jaws.

*Welcome to New York* is the story of Mr Devereaux (Gérard Depardieu); a powerful man who handles billions of dollars and the economic fate of nations on a daily basis while dealing with a sex addiction.

Directed by Abel Ferrara (*Bad Lieutenant, King of New York*), Depardieu (*Mesrine, Life of Pi*) delivers one of his strongest performances yet alongside Jacqueline Bisset.

The starting point for the film is the life of the French economist, lawyer and politician who was accused of sexually assaulting a maid in his Manhattan hotel room.

The case was later dropped and a civil settlement agreed but Ferrara spent two years researching the story.

Armed with a strong background tale and powerful cast, the entire feature was shot in the Big Apple in just 18 days.

"I needed to go to the real places and to be where he [Strauss-Kahn] was. That's that little added something, like going the extra mile and doing all the research," said Ferrara.

"You're getting the vibe, the feel; you're there."

Although this film was informed by the real life of a public figure, Ferrara is clear that his offering is by no means factual.

"We made a movie, not a documentary on a news story," he said.

"I am not doing a police investigation. My research was simply the basis for a film – which is fiction."

Whether true to life or dreamt up, the graphic sex scenes are particularly unsettling, which is something Ferrara was aiming for.

"We didn't rehearse those moments. The girls dug him [Depardieu]," he explained.

"Everything in those scenes, the sexuality, the power, his aphrodisiac force, is him."

Aside from the magnetism of Depardieu there can be little debate that the character he plays is both fascinating and repugnant.

Reflecting on his leading man's ability to portray such complexities, Ferrara continued: "He's a force of nature, a beautiful guy."

"He's one of those actors capable of playing the craziest things."

On performing the larger-than-life Mr Devereaux, Depardieu added: "The character is fascinating... a bit Shakespearean."

"You find the same ingredients in his affair as you do in all of Shakespeare's work: power, money and sex."

After publicly stating that he didn't like Strauss-Kahn, the acclaimed actor added: "The news story made him disagreeable to me, but the film made him more likeable."

"The character in the feature, who is intelligent, most certainly is a monster to others."

In a challenging and provocative role Depardieu produces a career-best performance.

The result is an eye-opening political drama that is certainly worth a watch. ■

**VERDICT:** Depardieu confirms his place in the top drawer of modern-day actors



## THE QUIET ONES out now

PRODUCED by the legendary Hammer Studios this movie was inspired by the true story of an Oxford professor investigating claims that a young girl had been possessed. The experiment is documented by a cameraman on grainy film. Although the cast is very good it cannot lift this film above the average mark. There are shocks throughout and they serve to numb the finale, which is clichéd and awful.

**Capt Damian Hern, AGC (SPS)**

**VERDICT:** Delivers on scares but is let down by a woeful ending



## CALVARY out now

THIS is a fantastic Irish drama directed by John McDonagh that features a top-notch cast including Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd and Kelly Reilly. Gleeson plays Father James Lavelle, a good-natured priest who finds himself battling the spiteful and confrontational inhabitants of his small country town. It's a dark comedy that combines a murder mystery with characters that are brimming with emotion.

**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**

**VERDICT:** Solid story with funny moments

– it's not all gloomy



## KILLING SEASON out now

ROBERT De Niro plays a US veteran of the Bosnian conflict who is hunted by a deranged Serbian war criminal played by John Travolta using a ridiculous accent. The bad guy role switches with monotonous regularity and revenge is served predictably cold. The pseudo-slasher vibe may tickle gore fans and the cinematography is impressive, but the cheesy ending confirmed my deepest fears.

**Maj Neil Johnson, AAC**

**VERDICT:** That's 1hr 18min of my life I'll never get back



## THE RAID 2 out now

THE film follows undercover cop Rama, who is sent to jail to infiltrate the gang of a Jakarta crime baron in order to take them down. While inside, Rama works out by smashing a human-shaped outline chalked on the cell wall with wince-inducing, wrecking-ball force. It is truly awesome. The action sequences are also ridiculously good and any one of them would be the highlight of the average movie.

**Musn Tom Greenhalf, CAMUS**

**VERDICT:** Highly entertaining and well worth a watch



## ENEMIES CLOSER out now

DIRECTOR Peter Hyams keeps this film brisk while building to a pretty decent plot twist. Jean-Claude Van Damme is on form as a quirky drug smuggler on the hunt for his gang's lost cargo. It's in the B-movie category due to its outrageous, cartoonish and consistently entertaining nature. If it had been made 20 years ago it would have easily dominated the cinemas and been played endlessly on HBO – but it wasn't.

**Cpl Nick Reader, Rifles**

**VERDICT:** An entertaining film that will please Van Damme fans



## WIN... COMMANDO

ONE of the most successful documentaries of the Op Herrick era has been re-released ten years after first airing. *Commando: On the Front Line* shows recruits training to become Royal Marines before heading to Afghanistan. This edition also includes never-seen-before footage. *Soldier* has teamed up with ITV Studios to offer copies of the DVD to five lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning tell us who directed the series. Send your answers to the usual postal address or alternatively by email to [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk)

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# MUSIC



PICK OF THE MONTH:  
DEAD RAPPERS SELL BETTER

## SAPPER TURNED RAPPER

EX-SERVICEMAN EMBARKS ON  
URBAN ADVENTURE

## Interview: Richard Long

**O**N the well-trodden path of soldiers leaving the Army there are not many who have turned their back on Service life to forge a new career as a rap star. But that is the goal for ex-sapper Mark Kiseljov – aka Teez.

The 24-year-old has just added the finishing touches to his new album *Dead Rappers Sell Better* and with an abundance of self-belief spurring him on he is determined to hit the top.

“Music has been a hobby since I was in year seven at school but I only started taking it seriously as I was leaving the Army,” he told *Soldier* during an interview in London, where he was shooting his latest video.

“I started working in different studios and focusing on the structure and lyrics of my songs more.

“I’ve been all over the world doing music and it is something that has always been at the forefront of my mind.

“I cannot sing or play instruments so rap proved to be ideal.”

Kiseljov started performing his material while travelling in the USA and Australia and after being warmly received he is hoping for more of the same on home shores.

He has been keen to move away from the stereotypes associated with the genre and by addressing the issues of everyday life he believes he has struck the right note.

“There is a misconception surrounding rap and what it is all about,” he explained.

“People see these clowns on television and assume that’s how it is. I’m bringing something different and am talking about real-world scenarios.

“My music covers many different themes, from a political standpoint to looking at issues such as racism.

“I have a track called *Ferris Wheel*, which talks about when I was sleeping on a beach in Australia. It was such a beautiful country but they were difficult times.”

Kiseljov toured Afghanistan on Herrick 13 and he has had a lot of backing from the Service ranks, even though many of his former colleagues have yet to see him perform.

He has also generated a healthy fan base in wider circles and when he headed into the studio their generosity came to the fore.

“When I was travelling I got a lot of great feedback via social media and I have been asking people to sponsor my music,” he said.

“I got a decent amount of money and that has helped me to achieve my goal of making this record.

“I was surprised that so many people were willing to help. But I think my story is unique and without wishing to sound arrogant, the music is really good.

“I started doing shows while I was abroad so the guys who have seen me perform are all around the world, rather than from the Forces.

“But they have been very supportive. A few had some different opinions but when they listened to the music and what I was saying they were really positive.” ■

● To listen to tracks from the album visit [www.teezishere.bandcamp.com](http://www.teezishere.bandcamp.com) and for more updates follow @teezishere on Twitter

## Purple Reggae by Radio Riddler

IT has been 30 years since the release of one of the most influential albums of all time – Prince’s *Purple Rain*. In celebration of the milestone the production duo **Radio Riddler** present their first full-length record as a tribute to the pop genius. I’m not a huge fan of reggae and when I saw this was a remix of some of the icon’s best-known songs I thought it was close to sacrilege. However, it was obvious from the outset that this has been extremely well done and it is simply faultless throughout. I am converted.

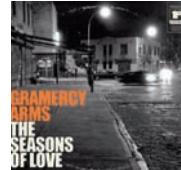


**Rodge Tapply, ex-RE**

**VERDICT:** An absolutely perfect tribute from start to finish ★★★★★

## Seasons of Love by Gramercy Arms

THIS New York-based collective is centred on a core of songwriter/producer **Dave Derby** and a host of collaborators. From the sunny optimism of opener *Always in Love* to the emotionally-charged duet *Beautiful Disguise*, this offering is littered with supercharged, exuberant pop anthems. Influences range from **Bruce Springsteen** on *The Night Is Your Only Friend* to **The Beatles** with *Yours Untruly*. This really is an album that has been beautifully crafted by proper musicians who care a great deal.



**Capt Damian Hern, AGC (SPS)**

**VERDICT:** Guitar-driven pop music doesn’t come any better than this ★★★★★

## Great Divide by Twin Atlantic

WITH Radio One’s **Zane Lowe** dubbing **Twin Atlantic**’s last hit *Heart and Soul* the “hottest track in the world” it is fair to say that big things were expected from their new offering *Great Divide*. The record boasts an array of songs that fully capture the band’s high spirits and this range and diversity proves how truly talented these lads from Glasgow are. Just one listen of the aforementioned single will have you immediately hooked and the album’s remaining tracks prove to be equally enjoyable.



**Cpl Nick Reader, Rifles**

**VERDICT:** Guaranteed to have you tapping your toes ★★★★★

## Hypnotic Eye by Tom Petty

EVERYONE loves **Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers** – don’t they? The band is the **Metallica** of heartland music; consistent, successful and with a firm fan base which longs for them to stick to their winning formula. Playing interesting and emotionally relevant music, their 13th studio album is a joy to listen to. They continue to eschew the fripperies relied upon by others and instead focus on powerful guitars and potent lyrics to deliver a sound that rivals the likes of **Bruce Springsteen** and **Bob Dylan**.



**Maj Euan Mathieson, Yorks**

**VERDICT:** No-nonsense solid rock music from a truly great band ★★★★★

## Britpop at the BBC

IMAGINE the best tracks from the greatest British guitar bands in one place and this is what you have here. From heavy hitters like **Oasis** and **Blur** through to second-string acts such as **The Verve** and **Supergrass**, there is something that everyone will remember and love. There are even some unknown groups that add a little spice to the mix. The bonus CD leaves a little to be desired but should not detract from the other two discs. This is a compilation that is definitely worth having.

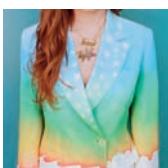


**LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**

**VERDICT:** The best from the past 20 years of British bands ★★★★★

## Voyager by Jenny Lewis

YOU may well have seen **Jenny Lewis**’s video for *Just One of the Guys*, which features **Anne Hathaway** and **Kristen Stewart** sporting sketchy facial hair. Her album *Voyager* sits somewhere between **Sheryl Crow** and **Taylor Swift** – not particularly edgy or current but ticking all the California studio-rock boxes. As a male twenty-something staring out over rainy London it was hard to get into the vibe – perhaps if I’d had it to mull over on holiday on the beach with a beer I would feel differently.



**Musn Tom Greenhalf, CAMUS**

**VERDICT:** It’s good – but not really my cup of Earl Grey ★★★★★

# BOOKS



PICK OF THE MONTH:  
HUNTER KILLER

## FAST-PACED FICTION

SOLDIER-TURNED-AUTHOR  
UNLEASHES HIS LATEST THRILLER



Chris Ryan's *Hunter  
Killer* is out now,  
priced £18.99

Picture: Chris Ryan @exSASChrisRyan

## Interview: Becky Clark

**B**RITAIN is under threat from a merciless terrorist cell that has already carried out one suicide bombing in central London – enter SAS operative Danny Black and friends to take out the perpetrators.

The plot of Chris Ryan's latest thriller, *Hunter Killer*, may be standard fodder in the military action genre but as the author told *Soldier*, it depicts the kind of clandestine operation he would like to see happen for real if national security was at risk.

"The book is basically how I think we should deal with certain situations," he commented.

"I've lost a lot of faith in the judicial system with terrorists going to prison and living out their lives after they've committed atrocities.

"In the story the decision is made to take the fight to the extremists and a number of guys are brought in to carry out assassinations.

"The law is twisted to achieve a greater goal."

Some 20 years and 60 or so books (Ryan himself has lost count) after publishing his version of the ill-fated Bravo Two Zero mission during the First Gulf War, the prolific writer is showing no signs of slowing down when it comes to bringing his own particular brand of military fiction to the mass market.

A significant chunk of his prodigious output is pitched at a younger audience.

The ex-Serviceman explained why it is so important to him to encourage teenagers to read.

"A lot of young men joining the Army have a very low reading age," he said.

"I go to schools and speak to 16-year-olds who are hoping to have a future in the Armed Forces and have probably never picked up a book before and I feel strongly that they should get into reading and enjoy the benefits of it."

*Hunter Killer*, however, is most definitely one for Ryan's older audience and fans of his work will not be disappointed.

From survival against the odds to bad guys despatched with ruthless efficiency and a traitorous twist as a finale, the tale delivers another page-turning serving of boys'-own-adventure-style action.

But as Ryan pointed out, even the more implausible sequences have their roots in fact and it is this that he feels makes his material stand out above the rest.

"I've actually been there and done it as a job," he commented.

"War isn't about jumping onto the white horse and galloping along in a blaze of glory, there are casualties on both sides, psychologically, mentally and physically."

"I've seen the reality, so I also try to show the dark side of life."

With British troops recently tasked to Iraq to assist the country (page 7), *Soldier* asked Ryan whether he missed his former role.

"I do, but I'm in my fifties now and it was bad enough in my twenties," he joked.

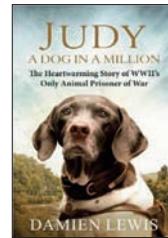
"Your abilities and your ambitions are two different things." ■

● *Soldier* has three signed copies of *Hunter Killer* to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one tell us what Chris Ryan's first book was called. Send your answer on a postcard to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 30.

## Interview: Becky Clark

### Judy – A Dog In a Million

by Damien Lewis



I MUST admit that novels about dogs are not normally top of my list when searching for something to read, so the story of the only official animal prisoner of war in the Second World War and winner of the Dickin Medal didn't inspire me to read on. But I'm glad I did. Brought together from diaries and testimonies of the few surviving veterans who knew and remember Judy, this is a heart-warming account that underlines how the morale of people can be so positively affected by animals.

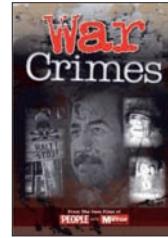
**Capt Damian Hern, AGC (SPS)**

**VERDICT:** A loving tale of a quite remarkable dog



### War Crimes

by Claire Welch



DESIGNED to sell via shock and simplicity rather than through the medium of rigorous journalism, this book falls far short of balance, neutrality or independence.

Containing no references and written as a series of extended, choppy articles it is cheaply presented and is not a title that I would recommend. That it may prompt readers to learn more about atrocities by seeking out other legitimate sources of information is its only redeeming quality.

**Maj Chris Buckham, RCAF**

**VERDICT:** Sensationalism over substance – give this a wide berth



### Greasepaint and Cordite

by Andy Merriman



THIS is a humorous portrayal of the Entertainment National Services Association during the Second World War, or "Every Night Something Awful" as it was sometimes dubbed. Bringing together a number of first-hand accounts, the behind-the-scenes descriptions of fun and frolics are amusing to read and the organisation's role in boosting troops' morale and ultimately combat effectiveness comes across well in the author's clever and charming narrative.

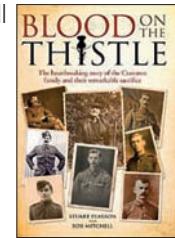
**Maj Jim Vincent, RLC**

**VERDICT:** An entertaining backstage peek at a bygone era



### Blood on the Thistle

by Pearson and Mitchell



THIS is the story of Lizzie Cranston, who sent seven of her nine sons off to the First World War. Four were killed or died of disease; two were severely wounded and only one returned relatively unscathed. Lizzie herself became a casualty as she slowly lost her mind under the strain. The authors have told the tale sensitively but with all the hard-hitting impact inherent in such a tragedy. Well worth reading to find out how life at home was affected by death at the front.

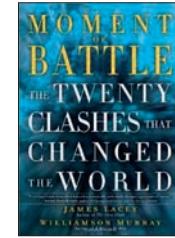
**Andy Kay, ex-RS**

**VERDICT:** A heart-breaking family story that gets top marks



### Moment of Battle

by Lacey and Murray



THE authors of this book have done a good job of taking 20 famous battles on land, sea and air and presenting them in a readable format but where the text falls down, for me, is in its US-centric approach. For example, the Battle of Britain was apparently useful in so much as it enabled the Americans to come in and win the Second World War. A decent source of reference but I'd take the writers' conclusions with a pinch of salt.

**SSgt Wallace Stephenson, Int Corps**

**VERDICT:** A myopic viewpoint tarnishes an interesting book



### Britain's Band of Brothers

by Tom Keene



BEFORE today's more famous elite units, there was the Small Scale Raiding Force and this revealing book charts its short but distinguished history in the Second World War. Along the way you may recognise a few well-known names including SAS founder, David Stirling, and Dane, Anders Lassen, who would later go on to win the Victoria Cross. Although their names and memories may have faded into the past, their remarkable stories certainly have not.

**LCpl Scott Roberts, Rifles**

**VERDICT:** An eye-opening insight into a lesser-known unit



# TOP GEAR



PICK OF THE MONTH:  
BATTLE BAG

## FITNESS IN THE FIELD

FULL BODY TRAINING  
ON THE MOVE

Review: Joe Clapson

**W**HEN based at home or in the relative comforts of a well-resourced barracks finding fitness equipment to sculpt your physique is no problem at all.

However, if you've been deployed to the back of beyond on operations or exercise it can be difficult to source kit that is adequate for maintaining a fit body.

You can keep yourself ticking over with bodyweight drills, such as press-ups and sit-ups but unless someone has facilitated the costly transportation of weighted plates and Olympic bars, it is not easy to carry out a decent lifting regime.

Escape Fitness has come up with a brilliant yet simple solution, though – one that could be ideal for those who can't stand the thought of giving up hardcore training because of their location.

The Battle Bag is a robust, roll-out bag that can be filled with a variety of weighty materials such as sand, gravel or stones to create a superb fitness tool.

The hard-wearing kit can even be filled with up to four 2.5-litre water bottles, which can then be used for rehydration post-workout.

On initial inspection the cotton sack appears to be a bit of a gimmick because there isn't much to it; just sturdy straps and large pouches.

But that is a false assumption because after ploughing through a few exercises, using nothing but this one item, it is clear that it's like having a gym in a bag.

After wrapping it up tightly using the Velcro fastening you can lift it like a bar in any manner you want while holding on to its tough straps.

Loaded squats, deadlifts, bent-over rows, power-slams and cleans are all possible.

If you want to work on speed and agility while increasing the weighted burden, just throw the bag over your shoulders.

When empty it weighs a measly 1.64kg, making it perfect for packing for a trip. In fact, it could even be used as a handy holdall if required.

Due to the product's clever pouch design the weight you add can be evenly or unevenly distributed to create an apparatus to suit beginners or seasoned gym experts.

Working with an unbalanced load, even with minimal weight across your back or chest, it provides an effective strength and conditioning workout, particularly focusing on the trunk and abdominal areas and those important stabiliser muscles.

For powerful lifters this piece of kit can be loaded with up to 25kg.

All in all, the invention's rugged material makes it a top-notch tool to take anywhere.

For such a low-tech item the £150 price-tag does seem expensive.

But if you're in an isolated location without a gym, it could be just the thing to keep you in great shape. ■

**VERDICT:** A novel approach that delivers a notable battlefield victory



Review: Joe Clapson

# ONE-STOP GRAFTING TOOLS

## TRX FORCE KIT: TACTICAL

NAVY Seal creators of the revolutionary TRX Suspension Trainer have added this piece of kit to their armoury, which includes a 12-week soldier-inspired fitness programme. The highly versatile and rugged equipment weighs in at less than 1kg and allows for rapid set-up and a brutal strength-building functional workout. It's expensive, but essentially the straps, anchor and carabiners form a full gym in a sack, ready to be operated within seconds.

[www.uk.trxtraining.com](http://www.uk.trxtraining.com)



£270



£50-159

## POWERBAG

IN the realm of functional fitness Powerbag equipment is very popular as the number of exercises are only limited by an individual's imagination. The weighted bags have tough straps to allow for powerlifting movements and workouts involving speed, agility, jumps and throws. The gear is ideal for dynamic training but users will be constrained by their ability to carry the kit to their training location because the bags range from three to 50kg.

[www.leisurelinesgb.co.uk](http://www.leisurelinesgb.co.uk)

## BURN MACHINE

IT looks like a weird piece of metalwork but this is actually an amazing tool for improving cardiovascular and muscular endurance. The combination of a 5.5kg weight and grips that rotate 360 degrees make it an unusual training device and a clue is in the name as it brings on a serious burn in the arms, shoulders, back and core when used at high intensity. A decent option for a tough fat-burning blowout.

[www.fitness-mad.com](http://www.fitness-mad.com)



£140



£44.99

## MEDICINE BALL

ALTHOUGH just a humble weighted ball this can serve as a great tool for a complete body workout. From slamming the ball aggressively into the floor to launching it in the air or swinging it round your body, it can strengthen all areas while improving core stability. The fact that it is rubber and waterproof makes it perfect for outdoor training whether you are working on explosive movements or carving out rock-hard abdominal muscles.

[www.fitness-mad.com](http://www.fitness-mad.com)

WIN

## A BATTLE BAG

**SOLDIER** has teamed up with the exercise innovators at Escape Fitness ([www.escapefitness.com/battlebag](http://www.escapefitness.com/battlebag)) to offer readers the chance to win one of two Battle Bags worth £150 each. To be in with a chance of winning, tell us how much the kit weighs before it is loaded with additional bulk. Answers on a postcard to the usual address or [comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk](mailto:comps@soldiermagazine.co.uk) by September 30.





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# SOLDIERSPORT

Sports Editor: Richard Long

Photographers: Graeme Main and Steve Dock

**Game breaker:** Cpl Nordia Masters (AGC (SPS)) excelled on the netball court while representing Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games. Read more about the Army athletes who starred in Glasgow on page 78...



» Glasgow glory: The Army's boxers were not the only Forces athletes to make the podium – Mne Chris Sherrington won gold and Lt

# Service stars shine

**T**HE boxing team may have led the Army's medal charge with a double bronze at the 2014 Commonwealth Games but the Service had plenty to cheer in other sports. Here, we chart the achievements of those who excelled while competing north of the border...

» LIGHT flyweight boxer LCpl Ashley Williams (R Welsh) made a storming start in the ring with a points victory over Mozambique's Juliano Maquina in the round of 16.

The Welsh team captain then defeated Malaysia's Muhamad Redzuan (pictured) to secure the minimum of a bronze medal before locking horns with Devendra Laishram in the semi-finals.

The world number three proved to be a tough opponent and the Serviceman was knocked to the canvas in the second round as his rival sealed the win via a unanimous decision.

"I said all along that I was hoping for gold but I was not expected to bring anything back," Williams told *SoldierSport*.

"I went there to give it my best shot and I felt I

gave a really good account of myself throughout the competition.

"Laishram dropped me in the second round but I recovered well and gave him a hard bout.

"Looking back on my performance I probably boxed the best fight of my life against the Malaysian guy.

"The atmosphere was amazing and the Scottish fans cheered on all the home nations.

"It was a great crowd to box in front of and I thrived on that."

Williams also relished the opportunity to mix with other athletes outside the ring.

"This was my first multi-event games and being around other sportsmen allowed me to switch off between bouts," he explained.

"Having the chance to talk to people from different backgrounds really helped."



LCpl Ashley Williams (R Welsh) – Boxing



Maj Claire Fraser-Green (RA) – Cycling

» CYCLIST Maj Claire Fraser-Green (RA) tested herself against some of the biggest names in the sport as she took to the saddle for Guyana.

The officer was 29th in the time trial but failed to finish the road race.



Tpr Emmanuel Nartey (RTR) – Judo

» JUDO ace Tpr Emmanuel Nartey (RTR) was one of the top seeds in his weight category but suffered defeat at the quarter-final stage and then lost in the repechage.

The 73kg Ghanaian player made a promising start to his campaign with victory against Edson Madeira, of Mozambique, in the round of 16.

But the challenge posed by New Zealander Adrian Leat proved to be a step too far and his hopes of a bronze medal were then dashed by defeat to home favourite Patrick Dawson.

"It was not the performance I was looking for," Nartey told *SoldierSport*. "Statistically I should have won the gold medal but I came away with nothing."

"It is difficult for me to understand but I think it was down to a lack of focus on the day. When you go into a competition as the top seed everyone expects you to win and that creates extra pressure."

Nartey was hoping to bounce back at the World Championships in Russia as this issue went to press. "That tournament is my main goal for this year," he said.

# at Glasgow games



Cpl Nordia Masters (AGC (SPS)) – Netball

» THE Northern Ireland netball team – which included Army star Cpl Nordia Masters (AGC (SPS)) – enjoyed a storming finish to their Glasgow campaign after losing their opening three games.

Having suffered defeats against Malawi, Jamaica and New Zealand they bounced back to beat Saint Lucia 61-40 and Scotland 37-32 in their remaining pool fixtures.

Their fine form continued in the classification stages, where they downed their

Welsh rivals 58-36 to finish seventh in the competition.

"We headed into the tournament ranked 11th in the world and we are now up to seventh – it could not have gone any better for us," Masters told *SoldierSport*.

"The atmosphere in the venue was fantastic; no matter who we played against we had just as much support as the other teams.

"I achieved all my personal goals on the court and I had the time of my life."

» CAMEROON player Stephane Ombiongno ended LCpl Victor Ahiavor's (RRF) hopes of a medal in judo's 90kg competition.

The soldier made a promising start to the round of 16 clash but his opponent held firm to seal the win.

"I thought I did well," the Ghanaian said. "I knew it was going to be a tactical game and I narrowly lost on a penalty decision."

"I was really disappointed as I knew I could do better but the referee made his call. However, the atmosphere in the hall made it so exciting."



LCpl Victor Ahiavor (RRF) – Judo



LCpl Alanna Audley-Murphy (RLC) – Boxing

» VICTORY over Dominica's Valerian Spicer saw LCpl Alanna Audley-Murphy (RLC) add a bronze to Northern Ireland's impressive medal count in the ring.

The lightweight boxer was trailing after the opening round but mounted an impressive fightback to take the contest via a split decision.

"I felt a bit of pressure as I was the last Northern Irish boxer to fight," she told *SoldierSport*. "I was quite nervous but once I got in the ring it went away."

"It was close at the start and I didn't know if I was up or down so I just had to go for it towards the end."

"I gave her the first round but you can be ahead in the scoring and in the last 20 seconds everything can change. It was a great feeling to get the win."

Audley-Murphy's emotion was evident at the outcome and with a bronze medal already in the bag she took on Australian Shelley Watts in the semi-final.

Despite suffering defeat to the eventual gold medallist the soldier was delighted with her overall performance.

"I knew I was capable of bringing home a medal and I was going for gold," the Seervicewoman said. "It was a close contest but I gave her a good fight."

"Having such fantastic backing really helped. My family was up there, along with some guys from my regiment, and it was great to have that support."

» **Player appeal:** The Army tennis set-up is looking for new talent to join the fold ahead of the 2015 season – for more information

# Army toast grand slam

## Inter-Services Tennis

### Men's championship

Army 11  
Royal Navy 4  
Royal Air Force 3

### Women's championship

Army 10  
Royal Air Force 4  
Royal Navy 4

THE pristine courts of Wimbledon proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Army's tennis stars as they claimed a superb Inter-Services double in emphatic style.

Two epic three-set encounters involving number one seed Fus Dan Pethig (R Welsh, pictured right) helped the men's team win 11 out of 12 rubbers in the two-day competition, while the women gave a near identical masterclass to claim ten of the 12 ties played.

Having not lifted the trophy for five years the ladies were looking to break their hoodoo and the emergence of Reservist Lt Preet Chandi (AMS), along with a return to action for Capt Fiona Welborn

(AMS), strengthened their cause enormously.

Top seed Chandi started her campaign in solid style with a 6-2, 6-4, win over Sqn Ldr Kate Frayling of the Royal Air Force while Sgt Abi Hanafin (Int Corps) recorded the first of two comfortable victories by downing the Royal Navy's Lt Cdr Katharine Rackham.

The Army's number three then cruised past Sqn Ldr Liz Price without dropping a game before Welborn continued the winning run as she defeated AB Lauren Parker following two tight sets.

A second triumph followed in her match with Wg Cdr Delia Chadwick and Chandi ensured the Reds finished the day in style as she outclassed Musn Alice Hudson.

With maximum points secured from the opening ties the ladies needed to claim a further three rubbers in the doubles competition and they avoided the prospect of an anxious finale by winning their first three matches.

"All credit to the players who got those results, especially the pairing of Abi Hanafin and Capt Charlie Walsh (AGC (ETS))," women's captain Maj Cornel Oosthuizen (AGC (ETS)) told *SoldierSport*.

"Preet and Fiona really



**“The quality was absolutely incredible and it was some of the best tennis I have ever seen”**

Maj Steve Clarke (RAMC)

helped our cause. We've always been strong in the doubles so balancing that with some excellent showings in the singles allowed us to record a convincing win.

"It has been a long time coming. We have worked really hard over the last two or three years with our coach Allan Saul and the team has shown great commitment to the cause.

"We've also benefitted from a training camp in La Manga, which has given us a fantastic footing. The evidence of that can be seen in the fact we have won the Inter-Services B Championships for the past two years.

"Army tennis is in a very healthy state.

"We did not want to count our chickens before they hatched but coming into this tournament we knew we had one of our strongest teams for a long time. I'm thrilled with the results."

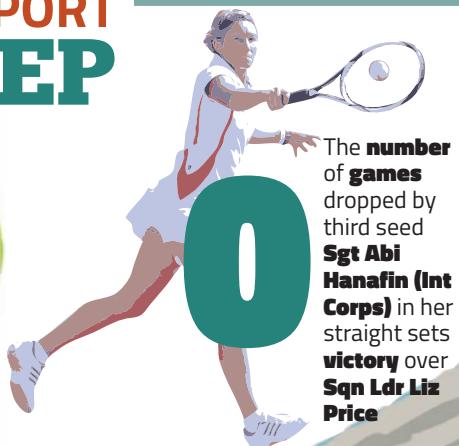
While the women secured their title with relative ease, the men faced some gruelling on-court battles in their pursuit of the trophy.

Newcomer Pte Reece Munnery (Para) fought back from a set down to defeat Navy third seed Lt Cdr Oliver Craven 3-6, 7-6, 6-4, but then

## SOLDIERSPORT SITREP

# 5

Years waited by the **Army women** before regaining the **Inter-Services title**



# 0

The **number of games** dropped by third seed **Sgt Abi Hanafin (Int Corps)** in her straight sets **victory** over **Sqn Ldr Liz Price**

# 12

**Rubbers** secured by **Army players** on the **opening day** as they **won every match** on court

# 59

Total **number of games** played by **Fus Dan Pethig (R Welsh)** as he triumphed in two epic **three-set encounters**



made short work of the RAF's OCdt Orion Medebe.

"This is my first time playing at Wimbledon and maybe I was a little nervous at the start of my opening match," he said.

"But I felt more comfortable going into my second tie. To come and play here is an incredible opportunity and it is great to be part of such a strong team."

Lt Ben Rogers (RA) followed a similar path as he opened his account with a three-set win over the Navy's OCdt Devarin Chowdhury before recording a 6-2, 6-2 success

against RAF number two Flt Lt Jon Bond.

But it was Pethig who toiled the hardest and after beating Flt Lt Chris Evans 6-2, 5-7, 6-3, he was pushed to the limit by LET Scott Nicholls before finally triumphing 6-3, 3-6, 7-5 in what was his final match in Army colours.

"Four of our matches went to three sets and we managed to win them all," said team captain Maj Steve Clarke (RAMC). "We also claimed five of the six doubles clashes.

"A lot of people have said that taking 11 rubbers out of a possible 12 is one of the

greatest-ever performances in this competition.

"I was confident that we had a pretty strong team but you never know who the other Services will put out.

"Dan Pethig came back into the set-up this year and Reece Munnery is an exciting new find for us.

"Dan had an epic match with Scott Nicholls. The quality was absolutely incredible and it was some of the best tennis I have ever seen. He was phenomenal for us, as were all the players.

"It was a huge team effort and I could not be happier."

# Court report

Date: August 3-4, 2014  
Competition: Inter-Services Tennis  
Venue: All England Club, Wimbledon

## Singles results

### Men

**Fus Dan Pethig** bt Flt Lt Chris Evans 6-2, 5-7, 6-3

**Lt Ben Rogers** bt OCdt Devarin Chowdhury 6-3, 6-7, 6-2

**Pte Reece Munnery** bt Lt Cdr Oliver Craven 3-6, 7-6, 6-4

**Fus Dan Pethig** bt LET Scott Nicholls 6-3, 3-6, 7-5

**Lt Ben Rogers** bt Flt Lt Jon Bond 6-2, 6-2

**Pte Reece Munnery** bt OCdt Orion Medebe 6-0, 6-3

### Women

**Lt Preet Chandi** bt Sqn Ldr Kate Frayling 6-2, 6-4

**Capt Fiona Welborn** bt AB Lauren Parker 6-4, 7-5

**Sgt Abi Hanafin** bt Lt Cdr Katharine Rackham 6-2, 6-4

**Lt Preet Chandi** bt Musn Alice Hudson 6-2, 6-3

**Capt Fiona Welborn** bt Wg Cdr Delia Chadwick 6-2, 6-1

**Sgt Abi Hanafin** bt Sqn Ldr Liz Price 6-0, 6-0

**We did not want to count our chickens before they hatched but we knew we had one of our strongest teams for a long time**

**Maj Cornel Oosthuizen (AGC)**

Picture: Peter Spurrier/Intersport Images



**Medal hopes:** The Service is looking for a new breed of athletes to follow the likes of Capt Heather Stanning (RA) and LCpl Alanna Audley-Murphy (RLC)

## Army sport opens elite pathway

**A** NEW initiative has been launched to identify and develop potential world-class athletes within the Service's ranks.

The Army elite sport programme will provide increased funding for disciplines that are deemed to offer the greatest opportunity for future medal winners and those on a pathway to the top.

Private security firm G4S has donated £1.4 million towards the project, which will be run in conjunction with UK Sport and the English Institute of Sport.

The initial focus will be on delivering athletes for the

2020 Tokyo Olympics and plans are already in place to review the Army boxing programme to optimise the development of fighters and coaches and to establish enhanced links with Team GB.

A potential partnership between shooting's governing body and the Army Rifle Association is also nearing completion, while a talent identification scheme called Girls4Gold will be launched this month.

Brig John Donnelly, who has helped move the initiative forward, said: "This project provides a new and incredibly exciting opportunity

**“This project provides a new and incredibly exciting opportunity”**

nurture and ultimately deliver Army athletes to world-class development programmes who have a real chance of winning medals at the highest levels of competition."

UK Sport's Dr Karen Williams added: "We are confident that our carefully planned and implemented talent identification programmes can achieve success when we find motivated, committed and determined athletes."

Further details will be circulated to units ahead of the official launch of the Army elite sports programme on October 8. ■

## Invictus athletes geared for world stage

A BRITISH Armed Forces team featuring 130 wounded athletes will fall under the sporting spotlight this month at the inaugural Invictus Games.

The five-day spectacular will see personnel competing in nine events ranging from athletics to wheelchair rugby at iconic venues used in the 2012 London Olympics.

Selection for the squad

came after an intensive three-month training and trials period that saw participants undergo 497 hours of coaching.

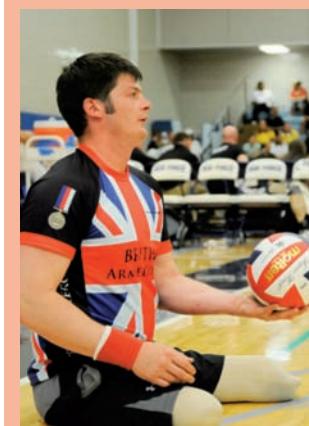
They will be competing against sportsmen and women from 14 different nations including Afghanistan and the USA.

"When I was injured I thought that was it, my life was over," said skipper Capt

Dave Henson (RE, pictured).

"The confidence boost that sport gave me was huge and to be selected as part of the British team for the Invictus Games is a great honour."

The opening ceremony will be held at London's Olympic Park on September 10 with the sporting action starting a day later. For tickets and more information visit [www.invictusgames.org](http://www.invictusgames.org)





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» **Army v Navy scorecard:** Navy 97 all out – Shapland 41, Simon 3-33, Bonton 2-0, Kyangungu 2-17, Prinsloo 1-6; Army 98-5 –

## SPORT SHORTS



» **WOUNDED** personnel competing with the Toe in the Water crew claimed a notable scalp in their latest attempt at the Round the Island Race.

Sailing on-board the Farr 45 yacht *Atomic* the soldiers outfought Olympic legend Sir Ben Ainslie and members of his America's Cup team as they completed the 56-mile course around the Isle of Wight in a time of just over ten hours.

"I've never been so proud of the guys," said skipper Capt Lloyd Hamilton (RE). "Beating Ben Ainslie was better than beating the Taliban."

» **THE** 2014 Army and Royal Artillery Hunter Trial will take place at Knighton Down in Larkhill on Saturday, October 25.

For details email [araht@larkhillequestrian.co.uk](mailto:araht@larkhillequestrian.co.uk) or call 07990 515434.



## Loggies light up corps final

### Inter-Corps Power Cup final

Royal Logistic Corps 220  
Infantry 193

**A** SPIN bowling stranglehold helped the Royal Logistic Corps claim a narrow victory in cricket's Power Cup final at a sun-drenched Aldershot.

The loggies posted 220 from their 50 overs but the Infantry failed to hit top gear in the run chase as they crumbled to 193 all out.

A swashbuckling 69 off

65 balls from Pte Denson Narayan gave the champions-elect some early impetus and a deserved half-century from Lt Andy Edwards saw them finish with a flourish.

Pace ace Fus Marlon Simon was the pick of the opposition attack with figures of 5-34.

In reply, the Infantry made the worst possible start as opener Lt Matt O'Connor fell without scoring before Cpl Dave Watson and Pte John Adcock steadied the ship with a 45-run stand.

But spinner WO2 Ian Smith snared Adcock with a delivery that stuck in the wicket and he then claimed the key scalp of Army star Green, who holed

out on the boundary edge.

With fellow slow bowler Capt Dave Matthews operating in tandem the batsmen struggled for runs and when Smith removed the dangerous Watson the loggies were in firm control.

Useful contributions from Capt JP Palmer (36) and Fus Gideon Charles (34 not out) kept the Infantry in contention but they ultimately fell short.

"Having posted 220 it was going to be close but we took key wickets at key stages," skipper Matthews said.

"I was happy to back our bowlers, we have a good spin attack and they took the wickets we needed." ■



## Services set for Salford

THE Army Rugby League team will break from tradition this month as they take to the pitch on a mission to retain their Inter-Services title.

Instead of lining up at the Army Rugby Stadium the soldiers will lock horns with the Royal Navy at the home of the Salford Red Devils in a curtain-raiser for the Super

League outfit's final home game of the season against Widnes Vikings.

The match will be played at 1700 on Friday, September 12, with the women playing their fixture at the club's all-weather pitch from 1500.

The Reds face the Royal Air Force at RAF Cranwell on Friday, September 26.



Lost cause: Batsman Maj Storm Green (Coldm Gds) is trapped leg before as the Army struggle in Uxbridge

## Airmen cruise to title

### Inter-Services Cricket

Royal Air Force 325-3  
Royal Navy 87 all out

Royal Navy 97 all out  
British Army 98-5

British Army 182-8  
Royal Air Force 183-1

THE Army relinquished their grip on cricket's Inter-Services 50-over trophy after a below-par performance against the Royal Air Force saw them crumble to a nine-wicket defeat.

With both sides crushing the Royal Navy in their opening fixtures at RAF Vine Lane the showdown between the hosts and this season's Twenty20 champions proved to be a winner-takes-all affair.

After opting to bat first the Reds were looking to make hay in the Uxbridge sunshine

but they suffered a double setback in the early stages of their innings.

Opener Gnr Graham Wiseman (RA) was caught off the bowling of man-of-the-match Flt Lt Jim Iago and when LCpl Brannon Varley (3 Med Regt) fell from the very next delivery the soldiers found themselves stuttering at 9-2.

However, Maj Storm Green (Coldm Gds) looked in decent form and he set about repairing the damage.

WO2 Ian Dixon (REME) was dismissed for nine but LCpl Jay Boynton's (REME) arrival coincided with an increase in tempo and the batting side looked well placed to recover.

But with Green closing in on a half century the left hander was trapped leg before as the RAF continued the knock of claiming wickets at key times.

The trend was repeated as Boynton was bowled for 36 and when LCpl Barry Rauwerda (2 PVRR) followed for 34 it looked as though the Reds would fail to complete

their full 50 overs.

But all-rounder Cpl Ian Redfern (RE) steadied the ship and some improvised stroke play took the score to 182-8 at the close of the innings.

With a relatively modest total to defend the soldiers took to the field in need of early wickets.

After weathering the initial storm the RAF made their way to 40 before Sqn Ldr Tim Adcock was caught behind off Fus Marlon Simon (R Welsh).

Fg Off Adam Fisher survived a huge appeal for leg before from the next ball and the umpire's decision proved pivotal. The wicketkeeper-batsman, who blasted 132 against the Navy, continued his fine form alongside SAC Ross Diver and the duo took the sting out of the Army's attack with a superb stand that tipped the match firmly in their side's favour.

And they reached their target in the 38th over, with Diver unbeaten on 84 and Fisher on 64.

## Game brief

Date: August 5-7, 2014

Competition: Inter-Services Cricket

Venue: RAF Vine Lane

### British Army

Prinsloo	Rauwerda	Robinson
Wiseman		
Green		Kyangungu
Dixon		
Varley		Boynton
Redfern		Simon

## Captain's comment



We got starts with the bat but the blokes got themselves out. Some of those dismissals were down to good cricket from the RAF but others were down to poor play on our part.

We will go away and reflect on things but we need to post good scores.

Credit to Jim Iago, he bowled well and having us three down early doors meant it was always going to be tough.

They batted responsibly in reply and in terms of Combined Services cricket that was great to see.

But we have had a fantastic year. In the build-up to this competition we only lost to the British Police so maybe we peaked too soon.



Cpl Jacques Prinsloo (RE)

# WAKEBOARDING

» Diary date: Army Wakeboarding Championships – September 8-12, Box End Park, Bedford

## SPORT SHORTS



» THE Combined Services Disabled Ski Team will embark on a punishing fundraising challenge this month as they cycle from Edinburgh Castle to the Tower of London.

Organised by defence technology company Selex ES, the Ride of Thrones event will see employees and athletes take to the saddle on September 3 in a bid to raise £20,000 to help skiers push for places at the Paralympic Games in 2018.

To support the cause visit [www.justgiving.com/RideofThrones](http://www.justgiving.com/RideofThrones)



» ULTRA marathon runner Capt Iain Bareham (RAPTC) is preparing for the next leg in a gruelling personal challenge after completing the 48-mile Transvulcania race.

The officer completed the Spanish course – which included a total climb of 17,178 feet – in a time of 15hr 57min.

He will tackle the Abingdon Marathon next month followed by the Brecon Ultra Marathon in November. To sponsor him visit [www.justgiving.com/IainBareham-H4H](http://www.justgiving.com/IainBareham-H4H)



## Crossley's podium pride

WAKEBOARDING star Sgt Dale Crossley (3 RSME) has made a name for himself on the international stage thanks to a superb second-place finish at the European Championships.

The soldier headed to Poland as an unknown quantity having only joined Team GB this season but an impressive opening run set the tone for a memorable weekend.

Italian Alberto Della Beffa beat him to the top spot but Crossley believes his efforts in the masters' competition will hold him in good stead for the

World Championships, which were being staged as this issue went to press.

"The performance really exceeded my expectations," he told *SoldierSport*. "When I got there I saw the other guys in my category riding and was not sure how I would go.

"But after talking to my coach I was much more relaxed about what I had to do. I finished first in my heat and was really stoked about that.

"I had a great opening run in the final but the Israeli guy was really strong second time out and he did enough to win.

"The standard was a lot

higher than I'm used to and I had to get my head round that but I'm delighted."

Crossley continued his fine form a few weeks later when he won the National Championships in Surrey, with Army teammate Capt Charlie Hay (AAC) finishing third in the ladies' open category.

"The Europeans gave me a taste of the pressure that comes with a massive competition so I was feeling quite calm about things," the sapper said.

"I was winning after the first round and the second run was almost like a victory lap." ■

» ENDURANCE athlete Sgt Gav Emmerson (29 Cdo Regt RA) was part of an eight-man crew to row from Gran Canaria to Barbados in an attempt to set a new record for crossing the Atlantic Ocean. The soldier's team completed the feat in 32 days, 22 hours, 31 minutes and 25 seconds and although they narrowly missed out on their main goal they posted a new fastest time for rowing between the two destinations. "Cheerfulness in the face of adversity is the Commando ethos and that stood us in good stead," he said.



Picture: Leslie St John

# Personnel Selection ✓

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7	72%	St Mary's Ascot	82	43%	St Bees School
8	71%	Badminton School	83	43%	Ampleforth College
9	71%	Benenden School	84	43%	Windermere School
10	71%	St Catherine's	85	43%	The Leys School
11	71%	Wellington College	86	42%	St Mary's Shftbury
12	68%	Faculty of QE	87	42%	Stonyhurst College
13	68%	St Mary's Calne	88	41%	King William's Coll
14	68%	Canford School	89	41%	New Hall School
15	67%	Hurtwood House	90	41%	Wellington School
16	67%	Oundle School	91	41%	Burgess Hill Girls
17	66%	Dulwich College	92	41%	King's School
18	65%	St Clare's	93	41%	Royal Dungannon
19	64%	Headington School	94	41%	Wells Cathedral S
20	64%	Malvern St James	95	40%	Queen's College
21	63%	Godolphin School	96	40%	Glenalmond College
22	62%	Caterham School	97	40%	St Margaret's Bushey
23	62%	Moreton Hall	98	39%	St Edmund's College
24	61%	Bromsgrove School	99	38%	Purcell School of Music
25	61%	Royal High Sch Bath	100	38%	Bruton School for Girls
26	60%	Ruthin School	101	38%	Stamford School
27	60%	St Michael's School	102	38%	Wrekin College
28	59%	King's School	103	38%	Victoria College
29	58%	Marlborough College	104	38%	Leighton Park School
30	58%	d'Overbroeck's Coll	105	37%	Welbeck College
31	57%	St Leonards-Mayfield	106	37%	Tring Park School
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41	54%	Roedean School	116	34%	Pocklington School
42	54%	Bedford School	117	34%	Stamford High School
43	54%	Uppingham School	118	33%	The King's School Ely
44	54%	Bishop's Stortford	119	33%	Bede's Senior School
45	53%	Lancing College	120	33%	Sutton Valence School
46	53%	Haberdasher Girls	121	33%	Langley School
47	53%	Oakham School	122	32%	Battle Abbey School
48	53%	Gresham's School	123	31%	Felsted School
49	53%	St Francis' College	124	31%	Kelly College
50	52%	St Teresa's, Eff	125	31%	Ackworth School
51	52%	Brentwood School	126	30%	Millfield School
52	52%	Surbiton High School	127	30%	The Oratory School
53	51%	St Mary's Cambridge	128	30%	Sedbergh School
54	51%	Loughborough Gram	129	29%	Farringtons School
55	51%	Merchiston Castle	130	28%	Shebbear College
56	50%	Bootham School	131	28%	Clayesmore School
57	50%	Dauntsey's School	132	28%	Box Hill School
58	50%	Reed's School	NR	28%	Giggleswick
59	50%	Marymount School	NR	28%	Polam
60	50%	Kingswood School	133	26%	Tettenhall College
61	49%	Ipswich School	134	25%	St John's College
62	49%	Merchant Taylors B	135	25%	Woodhouse Grove
63	49%	Prior Park College	136	24%	Sibford School
64	48%	Tudor Hall School	137	24%	Culford School
65	48%	Downside School	138	24%	Friends' School
66	48%	St John's School	139	24%	Lincoln Minster School
67	47%	Mount School (York)	140	24%	Hampshire Collegiate
68	46%	Chigwell School	141	23%	LVS Ascot
69	46%	Chetham's Music	142	22%	Seaford College
70	46%	Sidcot School	NR•	21%	Barnard Castle
71	46%	Kimbolton School	143	20%	Trinity School
72	46%	Bradfield College	144	18%	The Royal Ballet School
73	46%	Cheltenham College	145	18%	Fulneck School
74	46%	Bury Grammar Girls	NR•	16%	Read School Drax

# SPORT SHORTS



» SPORT stars from across the Army were treated to a special reception at the Palace of Westminster hosted by Chief of the General Staff Gen Sir Peter Wall.

2014 has been particularly successful with athletes competing at the Winter Olympics and Paralympics and the Commonwealth Games, while also excelling at Inter-Services level.

Among those to attend were karate ace Sgt Hayley Just (72 Engr Regt) and Army golf champions Cpl Ben Churchill (RE) and LCpl Kim Woodward (AGC (SPS), pictured).

"Sport is a paradigm of military life," Gen Wall said. "It engenders the qualities that we look for in our soldiers: strength, endurance, courage, leadership, teamwork and the will to win."



On the mat: Brazilian jiu-jitsu great Roger Gracie shows personnel the tricks of his trade

## Gracie gives guidance

THEN-time Brazilian jiu-jitsu world champion Roger Gracie gave soldiers a masterclass on the mat during an intensive seminar in Farnborough.

The guest instructor helped Army athletes, along with their colleagues from the Royal Marines, to perfect their skills in a number of key areas and his advice was well received by the sport's ever-expanding talent pool.

"It is a massive coup for us to get Roger here," Maj Don MacIntyre (Int Corps), the discipline's officer in charge, told *SoldierSport*. "It is the

equivalent of Lionel Messi turning up for a kick-about.

"He has been showing us different takedown techniques and ground work moves and our guys will learn a huge amount from him; he is an inspirational figure."

The sport only surfaced on the Army landscape two years ago and its rapid expansion will hopefully see it included on the Inter-Services programme.

And with the Marines also showing considerable interest a Combined Services team looks set to follow.

"The Army Martial Arts Association have been so

supportive," MacIntyre added. "They gave us money for mats and that means we can train wherever we want. We also have access to the Combat Sports Centre in Aldershot, which is a great facility."

The set-up holds training seminars every month and will stage the Army Championships next month.



For more information on how to get involved contact Maj MacIntyre on [donald.macintyre924@mod.uk](mailto:donald.macintyre924@mod.uk)



## Soldiers take the strain

SERVICE strongmen returned to action at the Army Full Powerlifting Championships in Aldershot.

The competition underlined the sport's growing reputation and saw Sgt Simon Robb (REME) named best male lifter, with Spr Leonora Brajshori (RE) taking the women's title.

The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers squad from RAF Northolt claimed the team prize and LCpl

Jordan Fern was crowned best junior.

"We have some great national-standard lifters and others who are at European level," said Army Powerlifting Union spokesman Capt Seb Madronal (REME).

"Simon Robb narrowly defeated Sgt Aaron Hull (R Signals), who has dominated in recent times, and it is nice to see them pushing each other on."

# Final word

With training for future missions now a key focus of Army life, we asked troops from 10th Signal Regiment about their most memorable exercise



## Sgt Jamie Hatch

I've just completed the senior command, leadership and management course so that is very fresh in my mind. It ticked all the right boxes. There was no sleep, plenty of section attacks and a really good final assault. Training like that, where you are kept busy and reminded of old skills, is the best.



## Sig James Baker

Exercise Bruno Rock in Gibraltar, where we trained to fight in built-up areas, was outrageously good. We had to react to circumstances that could change rapidly, like a colleague handing over a grenade with the pin pulled out and having to evacuate a room full of wounded troops. It was a pure adrenalin rush.

## LCpl Kieran Budd

A memory that stays with me is of training on the running track. I had done three laps and kept getting faster because I desperately needed to get to the toilet. I ended up having a nasty accident. It had been a heavy night beforehand at an Army dinner and I was feeling a bit worse for wear.



## LCpl Jimmy White

It's got to be Exercise Halfway in Barton Stacey because it was bitterly cold and absolutely awful. I felt like jacking it in but my mates dragged me through it. I've been in the Army for three years now and that training still sticks in my mind because of how much I hated it. But I got through.



## Cpl Danny Munetsi

I did some adventurous training in Chile after coming back from Op Herrick 14. It was three brilliant weeks of exploring the country, looking at icebergs and the amazing landscape. I gained qualifications as a summer and winter mountain leader, which meant I could take lads out on trips. That sort of training is so important because it's good for morale.



## Sig Jordan Edwards

The first time I trained on a river attack at Lulworth Cove was memorable. I was made the point man, which was exciting. We were flown in on Lynx helicopters and that was a first for me. The exercise ended up being stopped because people were going down with suspected pneumonia. We also had to muffle our laughter when some of the senior ranks were falling in streams with their Bergens on.



## LCpl Dan Lightfoot

The time I deployed to Arsenal's Emirates Stadium was very memorable. We were working on UK operations – on things like bomb threats and major emergencies – and during that I managed to grab a picture of myself sitting on Arsene Wenger's personal toilet. It was hilarious.



## LCpl Craig Taylor

In 2011 I travelled to the Harz in Germany to do some rock climbing as part of adventurous training. I found myself hanging off a rock about 100 feet in the air, looking down into the valley with just a tiny strap holding me. I was shaking like mad. At the time I was petrified but it helped boost my confidence and was certainly character building.



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